MVA allocates $250K for soccer training center in Koblerville. PAGE 2
Poker law amendments shelved. PAGE 4

Hafa Adai!

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75¢

USCIS not bound by USDOL definitions

By ERWIN ENCINARES
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REPORTER

A U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services representative said yesterday that they are not bound by the U.S. Department of Labor's occupational classifications though it is generally followed in the agency's decision making, especially when it came to the issuance of CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visas now that constructions workers are barred from the program.

A statement from USCIS public affairs officer Claire K. Nicholson said that USCIS was not bound by USDOL's definitions and classifications

See USCIS on Page 4

Domestic Policy Council briefed about CNMI labor situation

By BEA CABRERA
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REPORTER

The Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. was granted a meeting with President Donald Trump's Domestic Policy Council and was able to brief the group on the current labor situation in the CNMI and how the scrapping of the CNMI-Only Transitional Worker program would be disastrous to the local economy.

Trump

It was NMBAC's last meeting during its week-long trip to Washington, D.C. and saw its chair Alex Sablan joining Gov. Ralph DLG Torres and CNMI Labor Secretary Vicky Benavente at the White House.

The DPC is responsible for drafting and executing the domestic policies of the President. The council works with every federal agency to ensure that Trump's policy agenda is being carried out, government wide.

The DPC works closely with the U.S. Senate and U.S. House

See DOMESTIC on Page 4

Teenager hit by pickup truck

» Fatality in Dandan accident identified

An 18-year-old Carolinian female was struck in front of the Marianas Printing Shop in San Jose Village by a southbound grey Toyota Tacoma yesterday.

According to the Department of Public Safety, the accident occurred in the inner northbound lane of Beach Road in San Jose, between

See TEENAGER on Page 4

MAN'AMKO CHRISTMAS PARTY
Senior citizens dance the cha-cha during the Christmas Party sponsored by the Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan yesterday at Fiesta Resort's Hibiscus Hall.
KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA

INSIDE

NATION
The rush to launch service on a new, faster Amtrak route near Seattle came at a deadly cost.
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WORLD
U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley urged the Security Council on Tuesday to punish Iran for what the Trump administration calls its "dangerous violations" of U.N. resolutions and "destabilizing behavior."
PAGE 14

LIFE & STYLE
It began with a news story, and then a tweet, and suddenly it seemed like everything had changed overnight. 2017 will forever be known as the Year of the Reckoning.
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Local

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Training Center in Koblerville is set to open by the end of April.

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Better Together

MVA allocates $250K for soccer training center in Koblerville

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

At a special board meeting held yesterday, the Marianas Visitors Authority allocated $250,000 for the construction of the first Northern Mariana Islands Football Association Training Center in Koblerville.

After a tour of the football field last week, MVA managing director Chris Concepcion told the board that construction is coming along.

"It is actually really beautiful and we envision this to be a world-class sporting venue. There are already groups interested to fly in and conduct training," he said.

"Therefore, management recommends to reserve $250,000 from MVA destination and enhancement budget, similar amount to what we help fund the track and field in Oleai [beside] the Ada Gym," he added.

Concepcion's request was unanimously approved by the members of the board headed by chair Gloria Cavanagh.

Last October, the soccer training center project was presented to the MVA board by Ross Zapanta, general secretary of the Northern Mariana Islands Football Association.

"The Northern Mariana Island Soccer Training Center is designed to be used for international competitions, a place where local teams would have the same tools as their competitors," he said.

"The facility will have better lighting, better grass for the safety of players, sufficient parking, and proper seats for players and spectators. It is touted as a means to improve the playing level of the athletes and promote the sport to local players as well as the community," he added

The need for a real home for CNMI soccer came as a result of shortage of soccer fields.

According to Zapanta, partnerships with the Northern Mariana Sports Association and the Public School System allow practices and games to continue. However, fields are not proper soccer fields as they are shared with other sports and conditions are inadequate.

"The sport lacks a dedicated homefield with which no opportunity to grow and enhance our athletes," he said.

Zapanta said the target opening is by the end of April 2018 as there were delays in shipments and materials by some vendors.

"The soccer field will actually be finished by December but we would rather not use it until full completion so we do not want to hamper construction and safety concerns above anything else," he said.

Concepcion said that this allocation is relevant to MVA's projects.

"Sports tourism is a very important part of MVA's marketing efforts to promote the CNMI as a healthy destination for families and individuals. It is a part of our portfolio that's why we want to support this project," he said.

"We are excited about NMIFA's project to build the soccer field. This football complex does not only cater to national teams but international teams and events as well," he added.

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HK passenger sentenced to over 3 years imprisonment

By KIMBERLY A. BAUTISTA
kimberly_bautista@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A Hong Kong passenger who was found concealing methamphetamine in his luggage has been sentenced to serve over three years in prison.

Nairu Li, a 45-year-old male, was arrested for unlawful importation of a controlled substance.

Manglona

During an inspection by Customs inspectors at the Francisco C. Ada-Saipan International Airport on June 22, 2017, methamphetamine or "ice" was found hidden in Li's luggage.

During the sentencing hearing held last Dec. 15 at the NMI District Court, U.S attorney Garth Backe, in behalf of the government, recommended Li be sentenced to serve an imprisonment term at the low end of the guideline range that attorney Colin Thompson in behalf of Li agreed to.

The court sentenced Li to serve a total of 37 months under the Bureau of Prisons and District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona credited Li for his time served of 177 days.

In addition to the court sentence, Li will also be placed in an institution that includes a substance abuse program.

Immediately after his release from prison, Li will be placed on supervised release for three years.

During his supervised release, Li must abide by the mandatory conditions imposed by the court.

Li will be mandated to submit to one drug test within 15 days after his release and two more tests without exceeding eight drug tests per month.

During his supervised release, Li will also cooperate in the collection of DNA as directed by the probation officer.

Li must also comply with the Standard Conditions of Supervision that will be utilized by probation officers as a basis for the reports they will make to the court, a way to be kept informed, and to monitor improvements to Li's condition.

In addition to the mandated conditions, Li must also comply with a few special conditions after his release from prison.

Li must report to immigration official for deportation proceedings.

Li must also participate in a substance abuse treatment program approved by the U.S probation office.

All fines against Li were waived because of his inability to make payments.

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Poker law amendments shelved

By ERWIN ENCINARES
erwin_encinares@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A local bill that seeks to amend the poker laws to allow "adult gaming machines" to operate wherever gaming machines are allowed was delayed after several lawmakers declined to vote on the bill without first further reviewing it at the committee level.

Saipan and Northern Islands Legislative Delegate chair Rep. John Paul P. Sablan's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 20-47, which seeks to amend the Saipan Zoning Law of 2013 to allow adult gambling machine businesses to operate in "any zoning district where an adult gambling machine business is permitted" and is more than 200 feet from a church, public or private school, park, or playground.

Introduced in yesterday's SNILD session, chair Sablan also moved to allow the bill to be placed on the bill calendar for the session, however several lawmakers opposed the bill.

One of those who opposed acting on H.L.B. 20-47 was Senate President Arnold I. Palacios (R-Saipan), who pointed out that Zoning administrator Therese Ogumoro requested that the delegation oppose the bill, said that he had a "problem with voting on a bill without a committee report."

Rep. Edwin K. Propst (Ind-Saipan) said that the delegation should not "rush into [acting on] it too quickly," and requested that a public hearing be conducted on the bill.

Ultimately, the delegation voted 8-11 and opposed moving the bill to the bill calendar for the day.

Reps. Joseph "Lee Pan" Guerrero (R-Saipan), Alice Igitol (R-Saipan), Gregorio Sablan Jr. (R-Saipan), Francisco Aguon (R-Saipan), Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero (Ind-Saipan), chair Sablan, House Speaker Rafael Demapan (R-Saipan), and vice speaker Janice Maratita (R-Saipan) voted for placing the bill on the calendar.

Reps. Blas Jonathan Attao (Ind-Saipan), Donald Barcinas (R-Saipan), Jose Itibus (R-Saipan), Vinson Sablan (Ind-Saipan), Ivan A. Blanco (R-Saipan), Francisco Dela Cruz (R-Saipan), Angel Demapan (R-Saipan), Sen. Sixto Igisomar, minority leader Rep. Edmund Villagomez (Ind-Saipan), Propst, and Palacios voted against the motion.

Speaker Demapan told the delegation members after the motion was defeated that placing it on the bill calendar does not necessarily mean that the bill would be passed.

In an interview, author and chair Sablan said that the intention of the bill was to create "a fair playing field" for poker parlors in a somewhat literal sense.

"In my bill [H.L.B. 20-47], it's whether you are mixed commercial area or not," said chair Sablan, referring to the current setup of having poker parlors operate on certain mixed commercial zones along a stretch of road while other poker establishments also on mixed commercial areas but on different roads are not allowed.

He added that poker parlors have been reportedly filing lawsuits against Zoning because of this.

"Striking out [the street name] and just [being] mixed commercial, you are allowed [to operate a poker parlor establishment]," delegation chair Sablan said, was the intent of the bill.

Comments of zoning administrator Ogumoro clearly stated that the zoning board was against the bill.

"While this bill intends to bring 'consistency' in poker operations in one district, Zoning believes this bill will allow poker [parlors] to operate in all areas zoned as mixed commercial throughout the island," she said, adding that it would "undoubtedly create the uncertainty of the protection of compatible uses from those which are incompatible."

Citing Saipan Local Law 18-5, which regulates adult gambling machine businesses to promote the health, safety, morals, and general welfare of the Commonwealth citizens and to establish reasonable and uniform regulations to "prevent the deleterious location and concentration of adult businesses and, in particular, to separate adult businesses from family-oriented uses."

"S.L.L. 18-5 was enacted to ensure that adult gambling machines are centralized within certain geographical areas," added Ogumoro.

A longer version of this story is available at www. saipantribune.com

62-year-old drowns off Managaha

A 62-year-old Chinese male drowned in the waters off Managaha Island last Tuesday.

Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services said Zhang Shizhao was pronounced dead 12:06pm Tuesday at the Commonwealth Health Center after resuscitation efforts to revive him failed.

DFEMS received a call from DPS 911 reporting an ambulance was needed for a possible drowning patient en route from Managaha Island.

At 11:42am Medic-2 and Engine-2 from the Garapan Fire Station and Rescue-1 from the Susupe Fire Station were dispatched. DFEMS EMTs made contact with the patient at 11:52am at the Smiling Cove Marina.

DFEMS EMTs came upon a Managaha lifeguard staff preforming CPR (Cardio pulmonary resuscitation) on the 62-year-old Chinese male. On assessment by the EMTs, the patient was found pulseless and was not breathing. EMTs opened Zhang's airway and performed CPR on scene and continued CPR in the ambulance until reaching CHC-ER at 11:57am.

Upon arriving at CHC the EMTs transferred the Zhang into the CHC-Trauma room where ER staff took over until they stopped resuscitation efforts and the patient was pronounced deceased by Dr. Nick Villalon.

According the victim's son, he along with his mother and father, went swimming inside the Managaha Island swimming zone area close to the lifeguard's station. They went into waist-deep water, were all wearing life jackets, and began snorkeling.

The son says he and his mother tried to pull his father to shore when his mask came off and he began coughing. By the time they reached the shore his father had lost consciousness and they began to call for help. The victim's son said his father had a heart bypass four years ago and he was using a pacemaker. ***(Saipan Tribune)***

USCIS

From Page 1

of occupations. According to her, due to the recent enactment of Delegate Gregorio Kilili C. Sablan's (Ind-MP) House Resolution 339, CW-1 visas would "generally no longer be available to workers" performing jobs under the USDOL's definition of "construction and extraction occupations" based on the Standard Occupational Classification system, or SOC.

"The CNMI Department of Labor will generally identify the SOC group on the required Job Vacancy Announcement (JVA)," she said, adding that while USCIS also takes into consideration the job classifications as provided by the CNMI DOL, USCIS is not bound by it in regards to its decision making.

"…USCIS will consider the job classification identified on the JVA, USCIS is not bound by this determination and may make a separate and independent judgment based on a preponderance of the evidence in each case."

Sablan's H.R. 339, which passed in late August 2017, had provisions that barred construction workers from obtaining CW-1 visas. According to the delegate in a previous statement, construction workers alone took up an estimated 4,000 CW-1 slots for fiscal year 2017. USCIS set that cap at 12,998 for fiscal year 2017.

For fiscal year 2018, USCIS reduced the cap of available CW-1 slots by 3,000, setting it at a maximum of 9,998 approved slots for the fiscal year. Fiscal year 2017's cap was a reduction of one slot from fiscal year 2016's CW-1 cap.

The large reduction caused Gov. Ralph DLG Torres along with several members of the Northern Marianas Business Alliance Corp. to head to Washington, D.C. to discuss the repercussions of the large reduction.

NMBAC is a collection of private sector executives that strive toward the survival of the CNMI economy.

In a previous press release from NMBAC, they were shocked to discover that the USCIS considers occupations described as general maintenance, general handyman employees, gardeners, or occupations that do "general repairs" as under the USDOL's definitions of "construction workers".

"We have hotel maintenance workers who fix leaky faucets and Commonwealth Utilities Corp. engineers who maintain the engines at our power plants, who are in danger of losing their [CW-1] permits," said NMBAC chair Alex Sablan in a previous statement.

Torres, who went public that he did not intend to support this intention of HR 339, said in a statement that H.R. 339's enactment was ultimately "detrimental to the economy."

Despite retracting his support of H.R. 339, Torres said he and his office would "continue to keep moving forward."

"I am here to support the NMBAC and our efforts to continue fighting for the workforce of the CNMI because what has transpired is absolutely unacceptable for our economy to continue to grow," he said.

Saipan Tribune tried to obtain comments from Delegate Sablan since last Tuesday. According to the delegate's deputy communications director Tina Sablan, the delegate was travelling.

USCIS' Nicholson did clarify, however, that USCIS would deny CW-1 petitions for construction and extraction occupations if "the worker has not continually maintained CW-1 status for the same employer since before October 1, 2015."

"This new limitation applies to CW petitions that were pending with USCIS as of Aug. 22, 2017 as well as to any petitions filed after that date," said Nicholson.

DOMESTIC

From Page 1

of Representatives to craft legislation that the Legislative and Executive branches of government can agree on.

Sablan provided the DPC an overview of the meetings that the NMBAC had with various senior officials and committees and the detailed reports presented.

"The members of the NMBAC provide 72 percent of the CNMI government revenue, but only employ around 25 percent of the CW-1 workforce," he said.

"The NMBAC is here in Washington, D.C. to help provide a much needed voice to all small, medium, and large businesses that rely on foreign workers to keep their companies afloat," he added.

DPC senior officials raised questions pertaining to what efforts the governor and the business community have been making toward the training and recruitment of U.S. citizens.

Over the past months, the CNMI business community and employers carried the burden of proof in showing U.S. Congress that the CNMI is doing its part to recruit, hire, and retain U.S. eligible workers.

Sablan voiced out the millions of dollars that the business community and CNMI government have spent over the past three years in off-island recruitment and training programs that have been funded by various government and private sector sources to bring more U.S. citizens into the workforce.

DPC senior staff accepted the governor's invitation to travel to the CNMI so they can have a first-hand knowledge and experience about the progress that the CNMI has made over the past years.

NMBAC believes that this invitation would allow DPC to better understand the need for a long term-solution to the CNMI's workforce challenges.

TEENAGER

From Page 1

Mobil Gas Station and Lei Rent-A-Car.

The Department of Fire and Emergency Management Services received a call from DPS 911 at 5:05am about an auto-pedestrian accident. At 5:07am, Medic-4 from the Koblerville Fire Station and Rescue-1 from the Susupe station were dispatched.

Upon arrival, the female was found lying on the ground complaining of neck pain. A cervical collar and spine board were used to prevent further injuries to the patient.

Based on EMTs assessment, the patient has sustained multiple abrasions on her face, an avulsion on her right leg, and lacerations on her right arm and lower back.

A friend of victim says she was calling out and chasing the 18-year-old female pedestrian as she ran westbound d unto Beach Road.

The witness said that the victim was heavily intoxicated and was stumbling when she was struck by a gray 4-door Tacoma pickup truck.

The patient was transported to the Commonwealth Health Center emergency room where she was admitted for further observation and treated for multiple lacerations and abrasions.

At the time of the incident, the victim's blood alcohol concentration was over the legal limit. She was wearing a black T-shirt, dark pants, and the area was dimly lit. Police officers also noted the front windshield of the Tacoma was tinted, adding to poor visibility.

There was no evidence that the driver of the Tacoma pickup was speeding or drinking at the time of the accident and no arrests were made.

No information regarding the patient's condition will be released by DFEMS.

As per DPS, the case is under investigation.

Meanwhile, the woman killed after being hit by a van at 5:20am last Monday in front of Twin's Super Market has been identified.

The victim was Angelita Lozada, 48 years old and Filipino. Lozada sustained several severe injuries and was brought to the CHC emergency room for treatment. She was pronounced dead by an attending doctor at 5:35am.

The driver of a 2016 white Honda Odyssey was heading east on the outer lane driving at a speed of approximately 35 to 40 miles per hour when the victim entered the street.

The driver said he did not see the victim who was not in a designated crosswalk until a passenger in the car he was driving yelled "people!"

By the time he reacted, it was too late as his car already collided with the victim.

The accident is still under investigation and investigating officers have ruled out alcohol as a determining factor in the case. ***(Bea Cabrera)***

Kids Christmas bake sale and change drive raises over $1.7K

The Make-A-Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI applauds the community of students who, with the help of their parents, organized the 3rd Kids of Kids Event Christmas Bake Sale & Change Drive, which raised an impressive $1,730.35.

Delightful treats, all hand baked with care, plus a bowlful of coins, were donated by volunteers, supporters, and community members to benefit the Make-A-Wish Foundation's Wish Kids.

Brothers Christian and Ruben Guerrero, together with their friends, Sydney Villagomez, Kianna Propst, Ohanna Matagolai, Lola Guerrero, Mariana Tenorio, Sage Villagomez, Ceclilia Villagomez, Devin Propst, Kaden Propst, Logan Propst, Tiana Torres, Maria Terlaje, Jared Terlaje, Victoria Terlaje, Joshua Tenorio, Patrick Guerrero, Mikayla Guerrero, Rain Ramon, Malina Tenorio, Anah Bella Guerrero, Milanes Cabrera gave their energy and time to help make CNMI wishes come true. Make-A-Wish graciously thanks all the Kids for Kids organizers and volunteers, parents, family, and friends, for all their help in making the 2017 Kids for Kids Christmas Bake Sale & Change Drive a resounding success.

We at the Make A Wish Foundation of Guam and CNMI are truly touched by the generosity and effort demonstrated by all the kids and their families and friends throughout the planning and execution of this fundraiser. We have never been able to address wishes alone, and we are sincerely grateful for the support. The pure love and kindness shown towards wish children and their families in the Marianas by all the Kid helpers and volunteers inspire us all to continue helping our community. Thank you for believing in the power of a wish.

The Make-A-Wish Foundation grants the wishes of children with life-threatening medical conditions to enrich the human experience with hope, strength and joy. Founded in 1980 when a group of caring volunteers helped a young boy fulfill his dream of becoming a police officer, the Foundation is one of the world's leading children's charities, with 64 chapters in the United States and its territories. With the help of generous donors and nearly 30,000 volunteers, the Make-A-Wish Foundation grants a wish every 32 minutes and has granted more than 250,000 wishes in the United States since its inception.

For more information about the Make-A-Wish Foundation, visit guam.wish.org and discover how you can share the power of a wish. Anyone in our community can make a referral, so please let us know of any family whose child may be eligible. Please contact us through (670) 483-9474(WISH) or cnmiwish@gmail.com. ***(PR)***

UOG presents Guam GENE-iuses program

Bring out the scientist in you! The University of Guam College of Natural & Applied Sciences, in collaboration with the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, presents Guam GENE-ius! Guam GENE-ius is a series of seven classes held every other week on Saturdays that includes two hours of engaging hands-on experiments and activities that will cover fun and exciting topics representing a wide range of scientific disciplines.

This program is for children from 4th to 6th grade and is limited to 23 students per session. There are both morning and afternoon sessions.

Registration begins Dec. 19 and ends Jan. 5, 2018. The first class will start on Saturday, Jan. 13, 2018. The cost is $70 per student for the entire program.

Visit www.cnas-re.uog.edu/guam-gene-ius or email Kamille Wang at guam-genei-us@triton.uog.edu for more information and to obtain the registration package. ***(PR)***

Work session on Chamorro language, history, and culture set on Dec. 27

The Kumisión i Fino' CHamoru yan i Fina'nå'guen i Historia yan i Lina'la' Taotao Tåno' (Commission on CHamoru Language and the Teaching of History and Culture of the Indigenous People of Guam) will conduct a work session on Wednesday, Dec. 27, 2017, 2pm- 4pm at the Department of Parks and Recreation Conference Room in Hagåtña. Each Kumisión Committee, Language, History, Culture, will discuss matters tasked based on the adopted strategic plan.

For more information, call the Kumisión Chair, Hope A. Cristobal, at 483-0097 or Secretary, Rosa Salas Palomo, at 727-5522. ***(PR)***

Wanted: Stafford, Dampil

Stafford

Dampil

Crime Stoppers is asking for the community's assistance in finding Daniel Ryan Stafford who is responsible for stealing over $30,000 in cash from a local casino.

Police are also looking for Redge May Ordona Dampil. Dampil is believed to be Stafford's girlfriend. Her last know employer was Imperial Pacific and police believe she may be harboring Stafford, or have information regarding his whereabouts. If Dampil or any one is harboring Stafford they will be arrested and criminally charged.

Police have been searching for Stafford since Dec. 1. At that time, police responded to "Club 88" mini casino located at the Oceanview Hotel in Garapan for a theft case. According to the victim, the vault which should have contained $32,203 was left with just $1,900. Stafford was the club's manager at the time and the only person with access to the clubs vault.

Last Dec. 7, Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth L. Govendo signed an arrest warrant for Stafford for the charges of theft with a bail amount of $50,000. If you have any information regarding Stafford or Dampil, contact the Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272 or use our website www.nmicrimestoppers.net. You can remain anonymous, and Crime Stoppers pays up to $1,000 for any information leading to an arrest. It pays to call. ***(PR)***

Saipan Tribune Make it your DAILY habit.

IHOP, Ajisen Ramen loses GM due to CW cap

By BEA CABRERA
bea_cabrera@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

IHOP Saipan and Ajisen Ramen is losing its general manager after Michael Valencia's petition for renewal of his CNMI-Only Transitional Worker visa was denied by U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services.

USCIS last month cut 3,000 slots from the CW program and it now stands at 9,998.

Valencia has been working on Saipan the past 16 years and is set to go back to the Philippines on a flight scheduled this Christmas eve.

"I have been on this island for 16 years now. I started working at Hard Rock Cafe as restaurant and learning manager. I'm now the general manager for Ajisen Ramen and IHOP Saipan and in my last few days of work," he said.

It is Valencia's first time to be capped out.

"I was told that my application was rejected because the CW application is already full. Currently, my employer is seeking advise from a lawyer about my status on what kind of visa they could get me so I can still continue working with the company, but I still need to leave," he added.

BEA CABRERA

Michael Valencia with his staff and crew at IHOP. "We are happy and sad at the same time but we also know we have to move on. We are family here," Valencia said.

BEA CABRERA

IHOP and Ajisen Ramen general manager Michael Valencia.

It has been a roller coaster ride for Valencia from waiting for the application to its outcome of being sent home.

"Like how any individual would feel when they're about to lose their job, it feels like your future crashed before your eyes. The reality that I will be departing from this beautiful island soon makes me feel sad everyday, as I know I won't be seeing my friends and co-workers that I consider family," Valencia said.

"Lately every time I wake up I make sure to appreciate everything I see on this island because soon I won't be seeing anymore. I feel bad for the company I am leaving behind and to some new small businesses on island. A lot of businesses are opening up and the major problem we are all facing is manpower," he added.

Valencia has seen the CNMI in its lowest point and carried the burden just like anyone else.

"I have experienced the down times of the island in terms of economy where every company tried their best to keep the business running to the point of sacrificing some benefits and even cutting hours just to keep the business running. We, at the restaurant industry, tried our best to take extra care of our local customers and tourist to keep them coming back and to promote the island and its culture," he said.

Valencia said he's proud of the local and his fellow foreign workers' contribution to the CNMI economy.

"Honestly speaking, the CNMI is where it is now it's because of the hard work of the local and CW workers. I believe that CWs should not just get all the credit. Everyone plays a vital role and contributes," he added.

Valencia would like to keep his head high and take his experiences from his 16 years of being part of the CNMI.

"I would like to have a different perspective on this that instead of feeling down and hopeless. I would like to encourage the other CWs who are in the same predicament to use all the experience that you have gained while working in the CNMI and use this to further yourself in your next career or job," he said.

"I know it's easier said than done and I understand my colleagues who have children here, but our time here was worthwhile. We underwent various trainings and seminars where U.S. standards are met so in a way, I will not go home empty handed as I have all these experience under my belt," he added.

Valencia, however, is not really closing his doors to his second home.

"I will definitely go back when the opportunity comes. I call this island my home. I know this is not forever but I am hoping it would be. For many years I learned to love the island, its people, and the uniqueness of the culture because of some similarities to my own native culture," he said.

In the end, Valencia said he's very grateful for the 16 years he has worked on Saipan.

"My message to the community is I hope you don't view us only as a temporary help but to look at us as people who will stand with you to help, love, and help the economy of the island," he said.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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RFP18-GOV-027
TINIAN MUNICIPAL TRANSFER STATION EQUIPMENT

Governor Ralph DLG. Torres and Lt. Governor Victor B. Hocog through the Capital Improvement Program Office (collectively, "Commonwealth") are soliciting competitive sealed proposals according to the requirements of Northern Mariana Islands Administrative Code (NMIAC) §70-30.3-210 from qualified vendors to provide equipment for use at the Tinian Municipal Transfer Station on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations, currently in effect, and with the NMIAC §70-30-3-725 Gratuities and Kickbacks and §70.30.3-730 Prohibition Against Contingent Fees. All wage rates for employees performing the work, labor and services on this project shall be paid at the current U.S. prevailing wage rates established for the CNMI.

Proposals are to include costs associated with equipment, training, extended warranty, delivery, maintenance, as identified in specifications. The Commonwealth is relying on the expertise of vendors in the selection of most appropriate equipment for use in the proposed transfer station.

The specific pieces of equipment sought are the following:
1. Fork Lift
2. Skid Steer Loader w/Clam Bucket and Fork Attachment
3. Baler
4. Press Machine

Submitted proposals will be evaluated on a possible 100 points based on the following factors:
20 points - Qualification & Experience of Vendor
40 points - Price
20 points - Maintenance Program
20 points - Factory Warranty

All proposers will be subject to a responsibility determination as identified in NMIAC § 70-30.3-245 (Responsibility of Bidders and Offerors) which will evaluate whether the vendor has experience and resources for the required financing, warranty, and maintenance services. Proposals from parties who fail to meet the requirements of the Responsibility Determination will not be considered. All responses to this RFP should take into account any and all taxes, including excise tax, which will become the obligation of the applicant awarded a contract. The applicant selected will be subject to a responsibility determination in conformance with NMIAC 70-30.3-245 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations.

Award shall be made to the responsible offeror whose proposal conforms to the solicitation and is determined in writing to be the most advantageous to the Commonwealth taking into consideration price and the evaluation factors set forth in the Request for Proposals.

Proposals should address each item identified in the evaluation structure and must follow the proposal structure as identified in the proposal package. Proposal package will be available on December 5, 2017 at Office of Capital Improvement - Juan A. Sablan Administration Building - Capitol Hill, Saipan. Proposals must pay particular attention to the preferred identified equipment specification and use this as a guide in submission of proposals. **A pre-proposal meeting regarding this project will be held on December 12, 2017, 10:00 a.m. ChST, at the Governor's Office Conference Room in Capitol Hill.**

All questions regarding the RFP must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. on December 20, 2017 (ChST) to the Office of Capital Improvement via fax to (670) 664-2408 or email to Ms. Nerissa Benavente at nerissa.cip@gmail.com. Prospective bidders bear responsibility for proper transmission and receipt of submitted questions. Response to questions shall be shared with all prospective proposers.

The selected vendor will be required to comply with all applicable Commonwealth and Federal laws. All proposals must be sealed and marked R**FP18-GOV-027 Tinian Municipal Transfer Station** Equipment on the forms provided. Provide one original and four copies and to be submitted no later than 10:00 a.m., Monday, January 8, 2018 ChST to the Director of Procurement and Supply located at the former Emergency Management Office, Building No. 1301, Ascencion Drive, Capitol Hill. Proposers located outside the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of intent to propose. Notices of intent to propose must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than 10:00 a.m. ChST, Monday, January 8, 2018 and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515, or via e-mail to procurement@pticom.com.

For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and three (3) copies of the sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than, January 8, 2018, and must be received by the Director of Procurement and Supply no later than January 17, 2018. Failure to submit the required number of copies of the proposal may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The Commonwealth reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so would be in the best interests of the CNMI government.

Victor B. Hocog, Acting Governor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Herman S. Sablan, Director
Director of Procurement & Supply

Board of Trustees
Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
1 Lower Navy Hill Road Navy Hill, Saipan, MP 96950

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9911, the Commonwealth Healthcare Corporation hereby gives notice that a Special meeting of the Board of Trustees will be held on Friday, December 22, 2017 at 8:30 a.m. in the CEO's Conference Room 3 located at the Administrative Offices (new wing).

CHCC Special Meeting
AGENDA

I. Call to Order

II. Determination of Quorum

III. Review and Adoption of the Agenda

IV. Immunization Fees Schedule

V. Adjournment

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2017 Paskong Pinoy

PHOTOS By KIMBERLY BAUTISTA

The Marianas High School Glee Club performs during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

Guests pose for a picture during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

Juliet Inocencio performs during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

Saipan Mayor David M. Apatang gives his opening remarks during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

United Filipino Organization president Marlon Regaton gives his opening remarks during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

The Batang Pinoy group performs during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

The Studio M Performing group performs during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

The Green Meadow School performs during the 2017 Paskong Pinoy celebration last Sunday at the Marianas Business Plaza parking area.

BOG embraces corporate sustainable giving for its 45th year

HAGATNA, Guam—For its 45th anniversary, Bank of Guam continues to give back to the community by making a special donation to 27 non-profits in celebration of partnerships in the region. The nonprofits are located in Guam, the CNMI, the Republic of Marshal Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Palau, and San Francisco.

The presentation of these contributions to the Guam nonprofits, which were selected by the employees occurred last Dec. 15. They are: Guam Cancer Care, Erica's House, Guam Homeless Coalition, Hunterspeaks, Foster Families Association of Guam, and Healing Hearts.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Bank of Guam made a special donation to 27 non-profits in celebration of partnerships in the region. Photo shows six of the non-profits holding up their giant name cards.

In the spirit of sustainability, the bank is also delivering a recycled, single folding (origami-style) card to its customers. The bank partnered with a Kosraen customer, Green Banana Paper, to produce re-useable, recycled banana paper sleeves, which are the wrap for its 45th anniversary notebook. For its partnership with Green Banana Paper, over 20 Kosraen artisans, subsistence farmers and their families were dedicated to the project. Additionally, recycled paper from the Bank of Guam Kosrae branch was contributed to produce the reuseable sleeve.

Interested parties can Green Banana Paper posted the project on its blog, www.greenbananapaper.com/bankofguam.

Lou A. Leon Guerrero, Bank of Guam president, chief executive officer, and board chair added, "We are so proud to partner with an island producer of environmentally respectful products, and to provide input on the design of those products. Additionally, in celebration of the season of giving, we appreciate all that our nonprofits do for our community, and are happy to give them this additional support for the heartful work they do." ***(PR)***

Community gathers holiday toys for children on Guam

DEDEDO, Guam—More children in Guam will have smiling faces this holiday season because of toys donated by local communities to the Marine Corps Reserve Toys for Tots Program.

Capt. Nathan Adams, action officer for this year's Toys for Tots program, expressed his appreciation to the people and organizations who volunteered to make this year's campaign an outstanding success. "The generous support of our community makes the Toys for Tots program one of the most successful community events in the area."

His sentiments were echoed by Guam's Toys for Tots coordinator, Gunnery Sgt. Justin Park, "This is the third year that I've worked on the Toys for Tots program and it has been an amazing experience that's gotten better every time. All of the local businesses were great and we saw so much excitement to give from all of the people involved."

Now in its ninth year on the island, and thanks in large part to the Guam Chamber of Commerce, the Toys for Tots Program has gained the support of dozens of area retailers, architectural firms, Guam public schools, real estate firms, automobile dealers, banks, restaurants, civic organizations and numerous members of the general public.

"The Chamber of Commerce really is the driving force behind the continued success of the program year after year, explained Adams.

The Chamber also organized the Toys for Tots kickoff event on Sept. 25 and financed the Toys for Tots High School Challenge designed to encourage participation with a $1,000 prize to the school that collected the most toys.

Iconic toy retailer, Toys "R" Us, located in the Micronesia Mall, was an enormous contributor to the program this year.

LANCE CPL. SAMUEL D. BRUSSEAU
U.S. Marines join with the Guam Chamber of Commerce for the Toys for Tots kickoff last Sept. 27.

LANCE CPL. SAMUEL D. BRUSSEAU
U.S. Marines join the Guam Veteran's Motorcycle Club last Nov. 21 on a shopping spree with funds raised by the veterans. The club collected more than $1,000 in donations this year to use at Toys R Us to co program.

The Veterans of Guam Motorcycle Club's commitment to support island communities also led to the collection of hundreds of toys for the children of Guam. "Like every year, these guys did a great job at raising funds." ***(PR)***

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Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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EDITORIAL

Rail safety can't wait

Our hearts go out to victims of Monday's horrifying Amtrak derailment in DuPont and to their families.

Perhaps one way to pay tribute to them is by promptly addressing the factors in this accident that could improve the safety of rail travel.

Although the NTSB investigation is just getting underway, some important questions must be answered by the public and private operators of passenger trains in Washington state and beyond.

Amtrak Cascades Train 501 was going 80 mph into a 30 mph curve when it derailed Monday morning, strongly suggesting operating errors. This makes it eerily similar to a 2015 Amtrak derailment in Philadelphia that killed 8 and injured 200, when a train entered a curve at more than twice the speed limit.

Safety equipment that could have intervened in both incidents — an automatic braking system — was installed on Cascades Train 501 but not yet operational.

Sound Transit, which owns the track segment and upgraded it with federal money passed through the state Department of Transportation, said the automatic braking system, known as positive train control (PTC), was scheduled to be operational in the second quarter of 2018.

It's beyond disappointing that PTC wasn't working before service began on this segment. Multiple parties share blame on this front.

Safety regulators have called for PTC systems for decades, but Congress and the U.S. railroad industry have been slow to implement this lifesaving technology.

Congress finally mandated PTC in 2008, after 25 people died in a California train accident that same year. PTC was required by the end of 2015. But after the rail industry struggled to finish the work on time, Congress relented and extended the deadline to December 2018.

Yes, PTC systems are expensive and complicated, but the public pays a far greater price when proven, effective safety systems are delayed.

Gov. Jay Inslee should demand that PTC systems be activated as soon as humanly possible on all passenger trains in Washington state. He has little authority over BNSF and Amtrak but can apply pressure and ensure that state and regional rail operators expedite their contributions.

Then there is a design question: Does it make sense to launch fast rail service on a segment of track with an S-curve that requires trains to slow from 79 mph to 30 mph as they snake across an old bridge crossing Interstate 5?

State and regional rail operators must provide a fuller explanation of why the bridge at DuPont wasn't realigned as part of the upgrade to 79 mph service. They should reassess the state's entire rail system

for tricky segments that add risk and complicate efforts to increase speeds and frequency of passenger trains, and then explain how they will be mitigated.

Monday's deadly accident also highlighted the city of Lakewood's earlier warnings about safety on this new route at rail crossings and the city's difficulty getting the state and Sound Transit to address its concerns.

See RAIL on Next Page

Trump only confirmed the obvious: Jerusalem is Israel's capital

By DANIELLE PLETKA
Tribune News Service

Danielle Pletka is the senior vice president for foreign and defense policy studies at the American Enterprise Institute. She earned a M.A. from the School of Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins and previously worked on Middle East issues for the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

WASHINGTON—In foreign policy, conventional wisdom has an almost biblical force. Gospel-like, practitioners intone the commandments: Never get involved in a land war in Asia. Terrorism and religion are unrelated. And, holy of holies, do not appear to prejudge the outcome of peace talks between Israelis and Palestinians.

Clearly, the gospels are not for Donald Trump, who last week declared that Jerusalem is indeed the capital of the State of Israel, and that the United States will move its embassy there from Tel Aviv.

Predictably, the president was denounced by the usual complement of opinion leaders, journalists and political opponents. And since Donald Trump is so often wrong, it is tempting to succumb to the opprobrium of polite society and agree he was probably wrong again. Except he wasn't.

Starting with the purely factual, Jerusalem has the virtue of actually being the capital of Israel. It is the seat of the Israeli prime minister, its parliament, its Supreme Court and its president.

Notwithstanding the objections of other countries, it is established practice for sovereign nations to choose their own capitals.

Dissenting savants will insist that Jerusalem is disputed territory, and therefore must be off limits to the Jews when it comes to capital-choosing.

But for most polite society — excluding Hamas, Hezbollah and other terrorists — the question of Jerusalem relates to its Old City and Eastern portions.

Not to all of Jerusalem. And Donald Trump made clear that the United States does not intend to place its embassy on disputed land or prejudge the outcome of a successful negotiation between Israel and Palestinian representatives.

Opponents will add that acknowledging Jerusalem as Israel's capital will enrage the Arab world. Perhaps that's true — though most Arab states have been surprisingly perfunctory in their condemnations — but it's not a reason for the United States to avoid acknowledging reality. It should certainly be a factor. But it should not be decisive.

But what about the so-called "Arab street?" And the Palestinians? Yes, they are cross. Hamas and others promptly declared Days of Rage to do what they do on most days that end in "y", terrorize civilians and destroy property.

Threats of violence are unacceptable, and should not be recognized with sage nods and murmurs about what-we-should-expect. Moving a building is not a pretext for violence, and all who accept the notion that terrorism has a justification are part of the problem.

Finally, there is the peace process. Successive secretaries of state have winded themselves in their breathless pursuit of the Nobel Peace Prize, all to no avail.

But the truth is that the Israelis have had their capital in Jerusalem for almost 70 years, and Washington has maintained an embassy outside Jerusalem for the same time period, and none of that has led to a resolution between the Arabs and the Jews.

There is no reason to believe that acknowledging reality will prejudice that particularly hopeless cause. Perhaps it will have the opposite effect.

Some suggest that behind the Trump administration's thinking on Jerusalem is the notion that upending the status quo, shaking the parties out of their worn-down shibboleths and going back to the table on the basis of reality could be a path forward.

Maybe. Certainly, the status quo has resulted in little more than dazzling prosperity for Israel and growing misery for Palestinians trapped under an unelected gaggle of octogenarian kleptocrats and more youthful terrorists.

Ultimately, it will be the Israelis and the Palestinians who decide the future for themselves. And it will not be the location of the United States embassy that will shape the fate of the region.

Rather it will be the birth of a partnership between the two sides in the belief that all will be better off at peace.

EDITORIAL POLICY Letters to the editor must include the NAME, VILLAGE ADDRESS, and CONTACT NUMBER of the contributor. Letters that do not have these information will immediately be trashed. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

7 words you can't say? Just watch me

By GINA BARRECA
The Hartford Courant

Gina Barreca is an English professor at the University of Connecticut and the author of If You Lean In, Will Men Just Look Down Your Blouse? *and eight other books. She can be reached at www.ginabarreca.com.*

Merry Covfefe to you, my dearest rutabagas, and Happy Bigly to your family and friends. As you know, wordish things have falafelled over this past year, leading many of us to scratch our bugles in wonder as we snog through messages sent to us "directly" from our groinly leaders in Washington.

Maybe it's because my day job is as an English professor, but I don't like when words are shredded, dismembered or mauled. Words matter. Words are our currency; from them we form our concepts of reality. Most of us have to be able negotiate our lives without examining the meaning and reliability of every single word.

And that's why I was more profoundly disturbed by the story reported by the Washington Post last week than I have been by any other single news item coming out of the Trump administration since our current president took office.

Even if you've been wrapping presents the whole time, you've heard about how the Trump administration reportedly communicated to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention that there are seven words to avoid, right? According to the Washington Post, workers at the Department of Health and Human Services, which oversees the CDC, were instructed to avoid "using certain words or phrases in official documents being drafted for next year's budget." The banned words include "vulnerable," "entitlement," "diversity," "transgender," "fetus," "evidence-based" and "science-based." (In the wake of the report, the federal agency's director said no words have been banned.)

The DHHS is the part of the federal government whose mission is to protect the health of all Americans and to provide "essential human services, especially for those least able to help themselves."

You might think that "those least able to help themselves" could be regarded as "vulnerable," but according to Trump's administration, you could be wrong. You would think that that a branch of the federal government dealing with disease control would be advocating for science and evidence, but you might be wrong.

You might think that the government's mandate would include protecting the rights of women who want to preserve hard-won reproductive freedoms or transgendered people whose battles in the health care system are only one of the battles they must fight on many fronts, but you might want to reconsider your belief.

You replace "fetus" with "unborn child" and thereby begin to strip away women's rights to make their own health care choices. You replace "transgender" with — I can't even imagine what — and all you're doing is mangling our country's language to meet the needs of fundamentalist religious zealots.

I've never liked when anybody tells me what I can say or what I can't.

I rebelled against those who thought we should "ban bossy." Bossy is a reasonable word and not a bad attitude to possess, especially when you're the boss.

I do not offer my students "trigger warnings" because only those who understand a work of literature can argue with it and, if appropriate, undermine the authority of it.

We teach children to "use their words." We have to use ours — all of them.

You'll remember that Orwell's Big Brother wants to strip people of words because to do so is "to narrow the range of thought." We learned in "1984" that "every concept that can ever be needed will be expressed by exactly one word, with its meaning rigidly defined and all its subsidiary meanings rubbed out and forgotten."

That sounds like last week's prescription for the CDC.

More unnerving than Orwell's fiction concerning language, however, is philosopher Hannah Arendt's fact about how the slicing, dicing and policing of language was used by Hitler's regime during WWII: "The result of a consistent and total substitution of lies for factual truth," Arendt wrote in "The Origins of Totalitarianism," is that the "sense by which we take our bearings in the real world — and the category of truth versus falsehood is among the mental means to this end — is being destroyed."

Banning words, phrases and books are all forms of linguistic and cultural eugenics, rendering us all more sterile, ignorant, unimaginative and unquestioning by forcing us into silence or, worse, into using deliberately butchered speech.

If we outlaw words, then only outlaws will have words.

Let's use our words to celebrate, to retain our integrity, our dignity and our power as American citizens.

Felis Noche Buena!

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

John DelRosario Jr. is a former publisher of the Saipan Tribune *and a former secretary of the Department of Public Lands. All views expressed by the author are his/her own and do not necessarily reflect the opinion and stance of the* Saipan Tribune.

Felisitasion Felis Noche Buena para todu. Un` ma`gas na selebrasion i Lunes na ha`ane gi kompliaños i Niño Jesus. Esgaihon halum gi gima` familia ya in`gagau motmut na bendision. Tat mas ke bendision i Nanalibreta!

Finattun ha`anen gupot siha hana` hahassuyu` ni tres dias na nobenan Niño gi bisinu gi hagas soñgsoñg. Tradision soñgsoñg antes. Kulan maliñgun ñaihon na tiempu fuera de chumahlau kumu promesa.

Ai antes na ninamagof i tropan lukau Niño gi señgsoñg. Duru hit man-ana`e felisitasion gi halum `agañg na kantan Noche Buena. Namagof! Pa`gu masaulag dandan CD para ta tuñgu` na mamamaila` i Niño. Taya` guaha kumu manafattu i patgon Yuus gi gima`ta siha.

Estague` na tiempu i mas paire i dinaña` familia. Marinueba inafamauleg, inasi`i yan inagofli`e gi halum todu. Mauleg na okasion `nai man-matucha grasiosu siha na konbetsasion. Pot mantautau hit, maila` ta osge tinagu` i Saina ya ta asi`i prohimuta. Esta este hu chogue silensiu dispues de tinayuyot-hu.

Na bonitu i Lunes na ha`ane yan familian miyu. Ta`lu un` biahe, Felis Noche Buena!

History: I recently conducted the turnover of several oil paintings of Sugar King Haruji Matsue the famous statue at the Garapan Central Park. His grandson Keiichiro Saeki, head of the Sugar King Foundation he founded in 1997, was present.

As I organized my thoughts approaching the podium, there stood prominently the historic fact that the late Matsue was the first to bring commercialized industries to the islands in the manufacture of sugar. His effort spurred other investors to gravitate to the islands and engage in the production of goods that were subsequently exported to Japan. It included fish and farm produce.

Hallmark: This chapter occupies the brightest spot in our historical development. Matsue proved it could be done with commitment to realistic investments and industry.

A few days later, Japan Consul Kinji Shinoda related that we should continue to work together to attract more Japanese tourists and investors to the islands before it's too late. I couldn't agree more.

In the late sixties, Nippon investors established the tourism industry here. It's a clean industry where we offer the triad of sun, sea and sand to our Japanese friends especially during the cold winter months.

The islands were home for many who were born here before the war. I recall the first PanAm 707 flight that landed here from Tokyo in the late sixties. I was quizzing why each of over 200 passengers knelt and kissed the tarmac when they got down from the plane. My mom related that they are happy to be back home. Each was born here before the war.

Japan is the world's second largest economic powerhouse in the global village. She's been here and knows even the soil content of these isles. In brief, we should embark on a serious mission to lure her back home. She's proven the strength of an agriculture-based economy in addition to sugar manufacturing and fishing.

Sugar production may be out of the question but like Mr. Shinoda said we could begin exploring technology-based industries. Japan is a hi-tech powerhouse Full Square! Let's revisit what worked!

Definition: Analyzing the term investment, it brings into focus if we even understand it or are the people in charge familiar with it equipped with the wherewithal to be making decisions? Or is it premised on windfalls from what's known as "temperamental" growth triggered by the gaming business here? We can't call casino here an industry given that it's limited to a single licensee!

Investment reminds me of a quote by Titus Maccius Plautus, a Roman comic playwright, that has unexpected relevance on this score:

"In everything the middle course is best: All things in excess bring trouble to men". Balance serves as the ideal metaphor for long-term investing. Needs change over time and shortcut stratagems that may work one year can prove obsolete…and even costly…the next.

"Ignorance is never bliss when betting on a particular sector or company over time. Otherwise, you may as well play the slots in Las Vegas. "If you don't understand the business you invest in, you're going to be highly unlikely to discern the noise from your truly meaningful information that should factor into your decision-making, says Thomas Sudyka Jr., president of Lawson Kroeker Investment Management, Nebraska.

"Stay away from investment strategies that are too obscure, complex, or out of your wheelhouse to keep up with. If you don't understand how investment works, how can you expect to work for you?" Obviously this assertion brings into focus if the NMI has ever had a successful casino business at any point in its developmental history. Or isn't forms of gambling limited to cockfights outside of church on Sundays or bingo for the old ladies? So we can't tell if casino is in fact working for us, right?

The more critically the issue gets the more the reason to retreat and reassess our journey re-charting our destiny over the next forty years of self-government. Otherwise, we'd be repeating failure in grand redundancy!

Complacency gift-wrapped in mañana is an outdated paradigm. Must part with it now rejuvenated with a new set of vision to revive economic prosperity. If we snooze a bit more, we could kiss opportunities to build upon rock solid economic foundation adios. Not a good time to prolong the usual complacency that seems aplenty these days. This is the time to show some coconuts and push the envelop beyond our usual mañana that seem to have gotten a bit fatter.

RAIL

From Page 10

This should give pause to cities in Greater Seattle being pressured by rail advocates to expedite permitting of trains through their communities.

As the investigation and grieving continues, policymakers need to show the public that they're doing everything possible to improve the safety of passenger rail service. Further delays are simply unacceptable.

They must assure the public that safety is paramount both in the design and operation of passenger-train service — including current Amtrak and Sound Transit trains, light rail in the Puget Sound region and 200-mph passenger trains proposed between Oregon and Canada.

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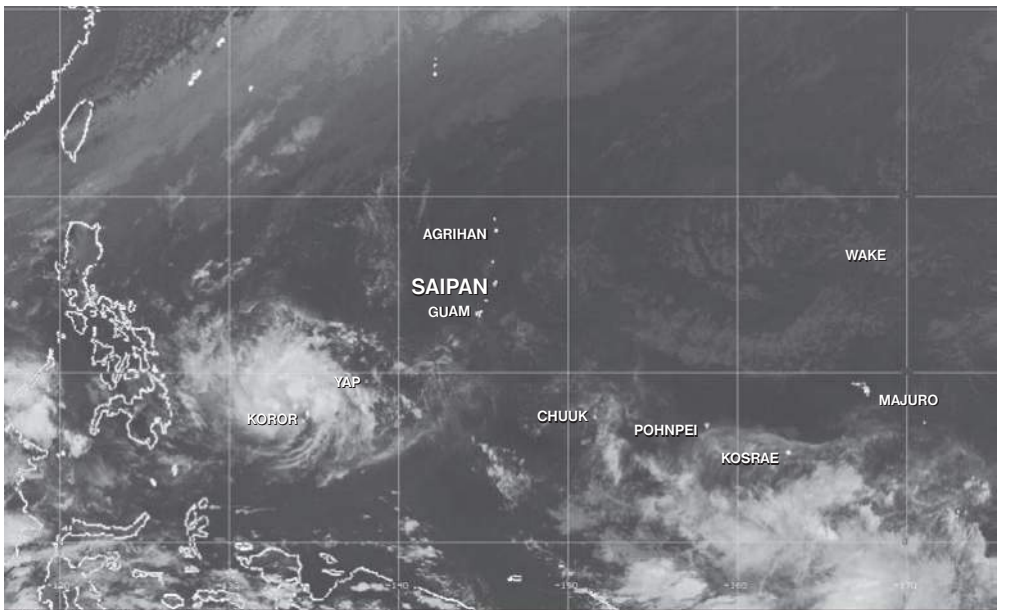
The Weather

5-DAY FORECAST FOR SAIPAN AND TINIAN

TODAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY	MONDAY
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. east winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼78°	▲88° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°	▲87° ▼77°

YESTERDAY'S SATELLITE IMAGE



PICTURE TIME: 8:56 AM, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 2017
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

Fairly dry air in place with precipitable water only 1.53 inches and a K-index of 2. The GFS shows no change through Friday, then just a slight increase in moisture. Only Sunday night and Monday show any significant departure, and this is due to its moving a circulation through. That circulation is currently an equatorial buffer south of Kosrae. While such things have happened, they are rather rare and the time scale would likely be too soon. So, for now, retained the mostly cloudy with isolated showers forecast.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

MICRONESIA		▲ ▼ °F
Guam and Rota	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Palau	Thunderstorms	84° / 77°
Yap	Thunderstorms	86° / 79°
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	87° / 81°
Pohnpei	Partly Cloudy	86° / 79°
Kosrae	Thunderstorms	87° / 80°
Majuro	Partly Cloudy	86° / 81°

AROUND THE GLOBE		▲ ▼ °F
Auckland	Partly Cloudy	79° / 66°
Beijing	Sunny	46° / 21°
Hong Kong	Mostly Sunny	64° / 61°
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	78° / 65°
London	Showers	54° / 45°
Los Angeles	Sunny	65° / 42°
Manila	Mostly Cloudy	84° / 77°
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	82° / 55°
Miami	Partly Cloudy	79° / 68°
New York	Partly Cloudy	45° / 30°
Osaka	Sunny	52° / 37°
Paris	Cloudy	50° / 45°
Busan	Sunny	48° / 32°
Rome	Sunny	50° / 34°
Salem	Partly Cloudy	62° / 51°
San Francisco	Sunny	57° / 42°
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	43° / 30°
Tokyo	Sunny	52° / 34°
Washington, DC	Sunny	45° / 33°

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Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:
- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any IT&E cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.net

TIDES: SAIPAN HARBOR TODAY		FEET
3:26 AM	LOW TIDE	-0.24
10:27 AM	HIGH TIDE	1.87
4:08 PM	LOW TIDE	1.18
8:39 PM	HIGH TIDE	1.73

DAY	SUNRISE	SUNSET
Today	6:38 AM	5:51 PM
Friday	6:38 AM	5:52 PM
Saturday	6:39 AM	5:52 PM
Sunday	6:39 AM	5:53 PM
Monday	6:40 AM	5:53 PM

DAY	MOONRISE	MOONSET	MOONRISE
Today	8:39 am	8:18 pm	-
Friday	9:24 am	9:08 pm	-
Saturday	10:07 am	9:58 pm	-
Sunday	10:49 am	10:47 pm	-
Monday	11:30 am	11:37 pm	-

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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 19, 2017

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM)

UA6394	4:15am	5:05am	Daily
UA6392	8:40am	9:30am	Daily
UA6391	1:30pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7 via Rota
UA6390	2:20pm	3:10pm	2, 3, 6
UA6398	6:05pm	6:55pm	Daily
UA6396	9:50pm	10:40pm	Daily

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

UA6391	1:30pm	2:05pm	1, 4, 5, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM)

UA6391	2:35pm	3:10pm	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL297	4:20pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

7C3451	3:10am	6:10am	1, 7
7C3451	4:00am	7:05am	4, 5

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

TW308	2:00am	6:05am	Daily
OZ626	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ626	2:50am	6:40am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
LJ652	3:40am	7:30am	1, 4, 5, 7
7C3403	4:45am	8:30am	Daily
7C3401	4:00pm	7:45pm	Daily

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

3U8648	5:40am	8:40am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-HANGZHOU (HGH)

JD396	7:30am	12:00pm	1
JD396	4:50pm	10:00pm	4

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

3U8646	4:20am	7:30am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

MU764	1:30am	6:35am	3, 5, 7

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ626/701	2:10am	10:55am	1 via ICN
OZ626/701	2:50am	10:55am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UA6394/191	4:15am	9:00am	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	8:10am	7 via GUM
UA6394/PR111	4:15am	9:20am	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:40pm	2, 5 via GUM
UA6398/183	6:05pm	9:50pm	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
UA6398/193	6:05pm	11:50pm	2, 5 via GUM-ROR

SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG)

HX077	1:50am	5:15am	1, 4
OZ626/721	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ626/721	2:50am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
UO43	5:45am	8:40am	1, 3, 5, 7
UA6398/159	6:05pm	11:00pm	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

ARRIVALS

GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN

UA6393	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
UA6395	7:15am	8:05am	Daily
UA6391	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
UA6390	12:10pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6 via Rota
UA6397	4:45pm	5:35pm	Daily
UA6399	8:30pm	9:20pm	Daily

GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP)

UA6390	12:10pm	12:45pm	2, 3, 6

ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN

UA6390	1:15pm	1:50pm	2, 3, 6

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:30am	3:05pm	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

7C3452	9:00pm	2:10am+1	4
7C3452	9:05pm	2:10am+1	3, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

7C3402	9:30am	3:00pm	Daily
OZ625	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
TW307	7:45pm	1:00am+1	Daily
OZ625	8:20pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
LJ651	9:10pm	2:40am+1	3, 4, 6, 7
7C3404	10:10pm	3:40am+1	Daily

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

3U8647	10:20pm	4:30am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

HANGZHOU (HGH)-SAIPAN

JD395	8:25am	3:30pm	4
JD395	9:55pm	5:00am+1	7

GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN

3U8645	7:40pm	3:00am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

MU763	4:25pm	12:30am+1	2, 4, 6

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

UA182/6395	12:40am	8:05am	3, 6 via GUM
UA190/6397	9:55am	5:35pm	2, 3, 6, 7 via GUM
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/625	12:25pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/UA6395	10:05pm	8:05am+1	Daily via GUM
UA192/6395	10:30pm	8:05am+1	2, 5 via ROR-GUM
UA184/6395	10:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM

HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN

OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/625	1:15pm	1:40am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
HX076	5:15pm	12:15am+1	3, 7
UO42	6:50pm	1:45am+1	7
UO42	9:30pm	4:25am+1	2, 4, 6
UA116/6395	11:55pm	8:05am+1	1, 3, 5, 6 via GUM

LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 3U Sichuan Airlines, 7C Jeju Air, DL Delta Airlines, JD Beijing Capital, UO HK Express, HX HongKong Airlines, LJ Jin Air, MU China Eastern, OZ Asiana Airlines, TW t'way Air, UA United Airlines, PR PAL Express; ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. *(The* Saipan Tribune *is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)*

STAR MARIANAS AIR, INC.

SAIPAN TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1301	7:30AM	8:00AM	Daily
1302	11:30AM	12:00PM	Daily
1303	4:00PM	4:30PM	Daily

ROTA TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3101	8:15AM	8:45AM	Daily
3102	1:45PM	2:15PM	Daily
3103	4:45PM	5:15PM	Daily

ROTA TO GUAM

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
3401	12:15PM	12:45PM	Daily

GUAM TO ROTA

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
4301	1:00PM	1:30PM	Daily

SAIPAN TO TINIAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
1201	7:00AM	7:15AM	Daily
1202	8:00AM	8:15AM	Daily
1203	9:00AM	9:15AM	Daily
1204	10:00AM	10:15AM	Daily
1205	11:00AM	11:15AM	Daily
1206	12:00PM	12:15PM	Daily
1207	1:00PM	1:15PM	Daily
1208	2:00PM	2:15PM	Daily
1209	3:00PM	3:15PM	Daily
1210	4:00PM	4:15PM	Daily
1211	5:00PM	5:15PM	Daily
1212	6:00PM	6:15PM	Daily

TINIAN TO SAIPAN

FLIGHT #	DEPARTURE	ARRIVAL	FREQUENCY
2102	7:30AM	7:45AM	Daily
2103	8:30AM	8:45AM	Daily
2104	9:30AM	9:45AM	Daily
2105	10:30AM	10:45AM	Daily
2106	11:30AM	11:45AM	Daily
2107	12:30PM	12:45PM	Daily
2108	1:30PM	1:45PM	Daily
2109	2:30PM	2:45PM	Daily
2110	3:30PM	3:45PM	Daily
2111	4:30PM	4:45PM	Daily
2112	5:30PM	5:45PM	Daily
2113	6:30PM	6:45PM	Daily

Business

GOP on the verge of huge tax overhaul—with one hiccup

WASHINGTON (AP)—Jubilant Republicans pushed on Tuesday to the verge of the most sweeping rewrite of the nation's tax laws in more than three decades, a deeply unpopular bill they insist Americans will learn to love when they see their paychecks in the new year. President Donald Trump cheered the lawmakers on, eager to claim his first major legislative victory.

Perhaps emblematic of the stumbles along the way, there was one last hiccup. Speaker Paul Ryan, who has worked years toward the goal of revamping the tax code, gleefully pounded the gavel on the final House vote, but then it turned out it wasn't final after all.

The Senate still expected to pass the legislation Tuesday night, but the plan to send it on to Trump for his signature had to be scrapped. Democrats noted that three provisions violated Senate rules and had to be removed. So the massive bill will be hauled back across the Capitol for the House to revote on Wednesday.

GOP House members roared and applauded as their chamber passed the $1.5 trillion package largely along party lines, 227-203. Ryan declared, "This was a promise made. This is a promise kept," as he and other GOP leaders convened a victory news conference moments later.

The Senate was still on track to approve the package that will touch every American taxpayer and every corner of the U.S. economy, providing steep tax cuts for businesses and the wealthy, and more modest help for middle- and low-income families. Despite Republican talk of spending discipline, the bill will push the huge national debt ever higher.

After the delay for a second House vote, the measure then heads to Trump who is aching for a win after 11 months of legislative failures and nonstarters. The president tweeted his congratulations to GOP leaders and "all great House Republicans who voted in favor of cutting your taxes!"

Congressional Republicans, who faltered badly in trying to dismantle Barack Obama's Affordable Care Act, see passage of the tax bill as crucial to proving to Americans they can govern— and imperative for holding onto House and Senate majorities in next year's midterm elections.

They have repeatedly argued the bill will spur economic growth as corporations, flush with cash, increase wages and hire more workers. But they acknowledge they have work to do in convincing everyday Americans. Many voters in surveys see the legislation as a boost to the wealthy, such as Trump and his family, and a minor gain at best for the middle class.

"I don't think we've done a good job messaging," said Rep. Greg Walden, R-Ore. "Now, you're able to look at the final product."

Ryan was positive, even insistent. He declared, "Results are what's going to make this popular."

Democrats called the bill a giveaway to corporations and the wealthy, with no likelihood that business owners will use their gains to hire more workers or raise wages. And they mocked the Republicans' contention that the bill will make taxes so simple that millions can file their returns "on a postcard"— an idea repeated often by the president.

"What happened to the postcard? We're going to have to carry around a billboard for tax simplification," declared Rep. Richard Neal of Massachusetts, the top Democrat on the Ways and Means Committee.

Tax cuts for corporations would be permanent while the cuts for individuals would expire in 2026 in order to comply with Senate budget rules. The tax cuts would take effect in January, and workers would start to see changes in the amount of taxes withheld from their paychecks in February.

For now, Democrats are planning to use the bill in their campaigns next year. Senate Democrats posted poll numbers on the bill on a video screen at their Tuesday luncheon.

FedEx says record number of holiday deliveries are on track

OMAHA, Neb. (AP)—A record number of holiday packages are on track to arrive this year, and the package delivery companies appear to be handling the load well.

FedEx offered the latest update Tuesday on its busiest time of the year as it released its fiscal second quarter earnings report.

"We are on track for another record holiday-shipping season, and customer-service levels have been outstanding," FedEx Chairman and CEO Fred Smith said. "We plan year around to meet the intense challenges of the peak season as average daily volumes can more than double."

Aside from some short-term delays at UPS last month because of a surge in online orders after Thanksgiving, few delivery problems have been reported this year. UPS restored normal delivery times after the initial surge.

So as long as consumers placed their orders in time, their gifts should make it on time, said Satish Jindel, founder and president of ShipMatrix, which tracks the shipping industry.

"There should be no concern about packages not getting there by Christmas Eve," Jindal said.

UPS spokesman Steve Gaut said UPS expects to deliver about 750 million packages during this holiday season, up from 712 million last year.

FedEx hasn't released an estimate of how packages it will handle during the holidays. ShipMatrix estimates that together FedEx, UPS and the U.S. Postal Service are delivering about 60 million packages a day during the holidays.

FedEx said Tuesday that its second-quarter earnings grew 11 percent to $775 million, or $2.84 per share. That's up from $700 million, or $2.59 per share.

The Memphis, Tennessee-based company said its earnings would be $3.18 per share if one-time costs were excluded.

The 13 analysts surveyed by Zacks Investment Research expected earnings per share of $2.87 per share, on average.

The package delivery company reported revenue of $16.31 billion. Nine analysts surveyed by Zacks expected $15.67 billion.

FedEx boosted its outlook for full-year earnings to a range of $12.70 to $13.30 per share. Previously, the company had predicted fiscal 2018 earnings would fall between $11.05 to $11.85.

The company's stock was up $3.36, or 1.4 percent, to $245.90 in extended trading after the release of the earnings report.

FedEx shares have increased 30 percent since the beginning of the year, while the Standard & Poor's 500 index has increased 20 percent.

Nation

Amtrak didn't wait for system that could've prevented wreck

By MICHAEL SISAK and MICHAEL BALSAMO
ASSOCIATED PRESS

AP

Two damaged train cars sit on flatbed trailers after being taken from the scene of an Amtrak train crash onto Interstate 5 a day earlier Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, in DuPont, Wash.

The rush to launch service on a new, faster Amtrak route near Seattle came at a deadly cost — critical speed-control technology that could have prevented a derailment was not active before the train set off on its maiden voyage.

Work to install the sophisticated, GPS-based technology known as positive train control isn't expected to be completed until next spring on the newly opened 15-mile (24-kilometer) span where the train derailed, according to Sound Transit, the public agency that owns the tracks.

The train was going 80 mph (129 kph) in a 30 mph (48 kph) zone Monday when it raced off the rails as they curved toward a bridge, hurtling train cars onto a highway below, investigators said. Three people were killed, and dozens were injured. Federal investigators say they are looking into whether the engineer was distracted.

A positive train control system could have detected the speeding and automatically applied the brakes to stop the train, said Najmedin Meshkati, a University of Southern California professor who has studied the technology for three decades.

"It is another layer of safety," he said.

Amtrak and the Washington Department of Transportation started publicizing the switch to the new route in October. Amtrak CEO Richard Anderson said that "no one wants PTC more than me" but would not directly answer questions about why it is taking so long to get the speed-control technology up and running across the board.

"I'm a huge believer in positive train control," he said at a news conference Tuesday evening. "It just makes so much scientific sense."

Anderson said the company's safety culture can continue to improve and said the crash should be seen as a "wake-up call."

"It's not acceptable that we're involved in these types of accidents," he said.

Railroads are under government orders to install positive train control by the end of 2018 after the industry lobbied Congress to extend earlier deadlines, citing complexity and cost.

Union Pacific, the nation's largest freight carrier, said it was spending about $2.9 billion on the technology. Industry groups estimate railroads will spend a total of about $10 billion to install and implement the systems.

Cardinal Bernard Law, central figure in abuse scandal, dies

BOSTON (AP)—Cardinal Bernard Law, the disgraced former archbishop of Boston whose failures to stop child molesters in the priesthood sparked what would become the worst crisis in American Catholicism, has died, a church official said Tuesday. He was 86.

Law

Law had been sick and was recently hospitalized in Rome. The official who confirmed the death was not authorized to make the announcement and asked to remain anonymous. The Vatican was expected to make a statement later Wednesday.

Law was once one of the most important leaders in the U.S. church. He broadly influenced Vatican appointments to American dioceses, helped set priorities for the nation's bishops and was favored by Pope John Paul II.

But in January 2002, The Boston Globe began a series of reports that used church records to reveal that Law had transferred abusive clergy among parish assignments for years without alerting parents or police. Within months, Catholics around the country demanded to know whether their bishops had done the same.

Law tried to manage the mushrooming scandal in his own archdiocese by first refusing to comment, then apologizing and promising reform. But thousands more church records were released describing new cases of how Law and others expressed more care for accused priests than for victims. Amid a groundswell against the cardinal, including rare public rebukes from some of his own priests, Law asked to resign and the pope said yes.

"It is my fervent prayer that this action may help the archdiocese of Boston to experience the healing, reconciliation and unity which are so desperately needed," Law said when he stepped down as head of the Boston archdiocese in December of that year. "To all those who have suffered from my shortcomings and mistakes, I both apologize and from them beg forgiveness."

It was a stunning fall from grace for Law and a rare step for the church, which deeply resists public pressure but could no longer do so given the scope of the crisis. Since 1950, more than 6,500, or about 6 percent of U.S. priests, have been accused of molesting children, and the American church has paid more than $3 billion in settlements to victims, according to studies commissioned by the U.S. bishops and media reports. As the leader of the archdiocese at the epicenter for the scandal, Law remained throughout his life a symbol of the church's widespread failures to protect children.

Asia

FOLLOWING TRUMP'S REPORT

China urges US to accept its rise

BEIJING (APThe Chinese government on Tuesday criticized U.S. President Donald Trump's decision to label Beijing a strategic rival and called on Washington to "abandon a Cold War mentality" and accept China's rise.

Trump's decision reflects a "victory of hardliners" in his administration, the official Xinhua News Agency said. It warned U.S.-Chinese economic relations were likely to face "even more pressure and challenges."

"We urge the United States to stop deliberately distorting China's strategic intentions and abandon a Cold War mentality," said a foreign ministry spokeswoman, Hua Chunying. "Otherwise it will injure others and damage itself."

Trump's report Monday hit a series of sore spots for Beijing. It affirmed ties with Taiwan, the self-ruled island the mainland government claims as its territory, and pledged to "re-energize our alliances" with Southeast Asian governments, some of which have conflicts with China over claims to portions of the South China Sea.

The United States and China share one of the world's biggest trading relationships and cooperate in areas from clean energy to public health. But Beijing sees Washington as an obstacle to its ambitions to be East Asia's dominant power, and strains over Taiwan, trade, technology policy and the South China Sea are growing.

"It is selfish to put your national interest above other countries' interest and the mutual interest of the international community," said the Chinese Embassy in Washington in a statement.

"The Chinese side is willing to have peaceful coexistence with all countries," said the embassy statement. "The United States should also adapt and accept China's development."

U.S. officials are uneasy about Beijing's rising military spending— already the second-highest behind Washington. They see President Xi Jinping's "Belt and Road Initiative," a project to build railways and other infrastructure across countries from Asia to Europe and Africa, as part of efforts to erode American influence and nurture a China-centered political structure.

Especially sensitive is Taiwan, the democratic island Beijing has declared a "core interest" over which it will go to war, if necessary.

Trump's report promises to "maintain our strong ties with Taiwan" and provide for its "legitimate defense needs."

China has taken a tougher stance toward Taiwan since last year's election of President Tsai Ing-wen, who has refused to endorse Beijing's contention that Taiwan is part of the Chinese nation. Chinese commentators speculate on the possible need for military steps to put pressure on Tsai.

After Trump signed a law this month that opened the way for U.S. Navy ships to visit Taiwan, a Chinese diplomat quoted by state media said the mainland would attack the day that happened.

Trump's report doesn't change Washington's official stance but might aggravate tensions if Taiwanese who want formal independence see it as sign of U.S. support and "want to take advantage of it," said Xiong Zhiyong, a U.S. relations expert at China Foreign Affairs University.

"The Chinese government is also anxious," said Xiong. He said the Chinese diplomat's remark is a "warning out of real worry that something may happen unexpectedly."

Hua, the foreign ministry spokeswoman, urged Washington to stick to diplomatic commitments on how to handle Taiwan.

On Monday, Chinese warplanes flew around Taiwan in what the military said was a test of their "ocean combat ability." Taiwan's defense ministry said Japan launched fighter planes to track the Chinese aircraft, but the Japanese government would not confirm that.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Myanmar, Bangladesh set up working group for Rohingya return

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) —Myanmar and Bangladesh set up a joint working group on Tuesday to oversee the repatriation of Rohingya Muslims who fled violence in Myanmar, but the start of their return is likely to be delayed. Under an agreement signed in Dhaka, the 30-member working group is to develop procedures to begin the voluntary return, resettlement and reintegration of Rohingya refugees. More than 630,000 Rohingya have fled to Bangladesh since Myanmar's military launched a crackdown in August following attacks on police posts by a militant group. The two countries agreed last month that the repatriation would start around Jan. 21, but a Bangladesh foreign ministry official who attended Tuesday's meeting said it would be delayed by a few weeks or so. Human rights groups warn that the Rohingya may face continued violence if they are sent back.

PH president declares Christmas truce with rebels

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine president has declared a Christmas truce with communist guerrillas and urges them to reciprocate the goodwill gesture after recently scrapping peace talks with the insurgents and declaring them as terrorists. President Rodrigo Duterte's decision, which was made public by his spokesman Harry Roque Jr. on Wednesday, reflects the contrasting moves the volatile leader has taken to deal with the 48-year communist insurgency, one of Asia's longest. Defense officials have asked Duterte not to make such a cease-fire declaration. Roque says the Dec. 24-Jan. 2 cease fire aims to lessen public apprehension during the holidays. Duterte has formally halted talks with the Maoist guerrillas due to continuing rebel attacks on government forces and declared them as terrorists in the first step of a legal process to proscribe their group.

2 anti-India rebels, woman killed during Kashmir fighting

SRINAGAR, India (AP)—A woman was killed during anti-India protests in disputed Kashmir on Tuesday following a gunbattle that killed two rebels, police and villagers said. The fighting erupted after Indian troops cordoned off a village in the southern Shopian area overnight on a tip that militants were hiding in a house, police said. The trapped militants tried to escape while firing their guns but soldiers retaliated, leading to a prolonged clash. As the fighting raged, hundreds of residents, mostly young men, entered the streets in solidarity with the rebels, chanting pro-militant slogans and demanding the end of Indian rule over Kashmir. The fighting stopped Tuesday after two militants were killed and a police official and a soldier were injured, police said. But clashes continued between rock-throwing protesters and troops who fired bullets, shotgun pellets and tear gas.

World

US wants UN to punish Iran

AP

U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Nikki Haley during a press briefing at Joint Base Anacostia-Bolling, Thursday, Dec. 14, 2017, in Washington.

UNITED NATIONS (AP)— U.S. Ambassador Nikki Haley urged the Security Council on Tuesday to punish Iran for what the Trump administration calls its "dangerous violations" of U.N. resolutions and "destabilizing behavior," while Russia said dialogue is needed rather than threats or sanctions.

Haley told a council meeting on implementation of the resolution that endorsed the 2015 nuclear deal with Iran that in the coming days the U.S. will explore a number of options with council members to pressure the Iranians "to adjust their behavior."

Haley said the council could strengthen the resolution, adopt a new one to prohibit all Iranian ballistic missile activity, explore sanctions "in response to its clear violation of the Yemen arms embargo," and hold the Islamic Revolutionary Guard Corps accountable for violating numerous council resolutions.

While the United States "continues to uphold its commitments" under the nuclear agreement, she said the international community must take action to address Iranian actions such as its arms sales, ballistic missile launches and support for terrorism.

But Russia's deputy U.N. ambassador, Vladimir Safronkov, said that what is needed to implement the resolution on the nuclear deal is "to abandon the language of threats and sanctions, and to start using the instruments of dialogue— and concentrate on broadening cooperation and mutual trust."

» But Russia says no to sanctions

The Security Council was discussing Secretary-General Antonio Guterres' report on implementation of the 2015 resolution. The U.N. chief said Iran was complying with the nuclear deal with the U.S. and five other world powers, but he warned that Tehran may be defying a U.N. call to halt ballistic missile development.

Guterres said the United Nations is investigating Iran's possible transfer of ballistic missiles to Houthi Shiite rebels in Yemen that may have been used in launches aimed at Saudi Arabia on July 22 and Nov. 4.

Safronkov stressed that the resolution makes no demand— it calls on Iran not to carry out ballistic missile activity that could be capable of delivering nuclear weapons.

He accused the U.N. Secretariat of carrying out investigations without prior Security Council approval, saying it "has neither the authority nor the expertise" and the information obtained "cannot be considered accurate."

Safronkov said a Russian initiative for "a system of collective security" and confidence building measures in the Middle East is relevant today.

Al-Qaida divisions may aid Assad as he eyes Syria's Idlib

BEIRUT (AP)—As President Bashar Assad seeks to reassert his authority in Idlib, the only remaining province in Syria where his forces have almost no presence, he may be aided there by deep fractures within al-Qaida, the militant group that dominates the region.

A recent wave of detentions and a spate of violence within al-Qaida have also raised fears of an all-out war between insurgents in the heavily populated province near Turkey as Assad's forces make their push.

Assad lost control of Idlib nearly three years ago and he has vowed to recapture it, but that is expected to be a bloody and costly fight. The militant haven is heavily fortified and home to thousands of fighters who transferred there from other parts of the country. It is also where tens of thousands of civilians settled after fleeing fighting in Aleppo, Homs, the suburbs of Damascus and elsewhere.

Tensions inside Idlib have been on the rise for months, reflecting a power struggle between hard-line foreign fighters loyal to al-Qaida's leader, Ayman al-Zawahri, and its more moderate Syrian members.

The tensions worsened in late November after a wave of detentions by an al-Qaida-linked group against more extremist, mostly non-Syrian members. Among those detained were two of al-Qaida's most esteemed leaders and founding members of the extremist group's branch in Syria, who were set free days later after pressure by factions within the group who threatened to withdraw from the battlefield in protest.

The Nov. 27 raids by the al-Qaida-linked Hay'at Tahrir al Sham— Arabic for Levant Liberation Committee, also known as HTS— took many by surprise and angered al-Zawahri, who accused his top man in Syria of betrayal.

The detentions, ordered by HTS leader Abu Mohammed al-Golani, were the clearest indication yet of the sharp divisions within the international terror network. They also come as al-Golani appears to be edging closer to Turkey, which is trying, along with Iran and Russia, to bring an end to the country's civil war, now in its seventh year.

HTS was until recently on the ascendant in Syria, crushing potential opponents in Idlib as its rival, the Islamic State group, faced significant setbacks, losing most of the territory it once held in the country.

Those who were detained included Jordanian citizens Sami Oraidi, al-Qaida's former top religious figure in Syria, and the highly secretive former military commander in southern Syria, Ayad Toubasi, also known as Abu Julaybib al-Urduni, brother-in-law of the late al-Qaida in Iraq leader, Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

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MAJOR CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Construction Carpenter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 420
WAGES/SALARY: $14.51 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.77 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Follow established safety rules and regulations and maintain a safe and clean environment.
- Study specifications in blueprints, sketches, or building plans to pre pare project layout and determine dimensions and materials required.
- Measure and mark cutting lines on materials, using a ruler, pencil, chalk, and marking gauge.
- Shape or cut materials to specified measurements, using hand tools, machines, or power saws.
- Install structures or fixtures, such as windows, frames floorings, trim, or hardware, using carpenters' hand or power tools.
- Verify trueness of structure, using plumb bob and level. Select and order lumber or other required materials.
- Arrange for subcontractors to deal with special areas, such as heating or electrical wiring work.
- Maintain records, document actions, and present written progress reports.
- Build or repair cabinets, doors, frameworks, floors, or other wooden fixtures used in buildings, using woodworking machines, carpenter's hand tools, or power tools. Erect scaffolding or ladders for assembling structures above ground level.
- Inspect ceiling or floor tile, wall coverings, siding, glass, or woodwork to detect broken or damaged structures.
- Assemble and fasten materials to make frameworks or props, using hand tools and wood screws, nails, dowel pins, or glue.
- Remove damaged or defective parts or sections of structures and repair or replace, using hand tools.
- Finish surfaces of woodwork or wallboard in houses or buildings, using paint, hand tools, or paneling.
- Apply shock-absorbing, sound-deadening, or decorative paneling to ceilings or walls.
- Cover subfloors with building paper to keep out moisture and lay hard wood, parquet, or wood-strip-block floors by nailing floors to subfloor or cementing them to mastic or asphalt base.
- Fill cracks or other defects in plaster or plasterboard and sand patch, using patching plaster, trowel, and sanding tool.
- Perform minor plumbing, welding, or concrete mixing work.
- Prepare cost estimates for clients or employers.
- Construct forms or chutes for pouring concrete.
- Work with or remove hazardous material.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
One (1) year of on-the-job experience as a Construction Carpenter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51540.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Construction Laborer
NUMBER OF OPENING: 30
WAGES/SALARY: $11.00 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $16.50 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Clean or prepare construction sites to eliminate possible hazards.
- Signal equipment operators to facilitate alignment, movement, or adjustment of machinery, equipment, or materials.
- Read plans, instructions, or specifications to determine work activities.
- Load, unload, or identify building materials, machinery, or tools, distributing them to the appropriate locations, according to project plans or specifications.
- Measure, mark, or record openings or distances to layout areas where construction work will be performed.
- Dig ditches or trenches, backfill excavations, or compact and level earth to grade specifications, using picks, shovels, pneumatic tampers, or rakes.
- Mix, pour, or spread concrete, using portable cement mixers.
- Tend pumps, compressors, or generators to provide power for tools, machinery, or equipment or to heat or move materials, such as asphalt.
- Erect or dismantle scaffolding, shoring, braces, traffic barricades, ramps, or other temporary structures.
- Provide assistance to craft workers, such as carpenters, plasterers, or masons. Lubricate, clean, or repair machinery, equipment, or tools.
- Position or dismantle forms for pouring concrete, using saws, hammers, nails, or bolts.
- Smooth or finish freshly poured cement or concrete, using floats, trowels, screeds, or powered cement finishing tools.
- Operate jackhammers or drills to break up concrete or pavement.
- Install sewer, water, or storm drain pipes, using pipe-laying machinery or laser guidance equipment.
- Operate or maintain air monitoring or other sampling devices in confined or hazardous environments.
- Mix ingredients to create compounds for covering or cleaning surfaces.
- Grind, scrape, sand, or polish surfaces, such as concrete, marble, terrazzo, or wood flooring, using abrasive tools or machines.
- Position, join, align, or seal structural components, such as concrete wall sections or pipes.
- Tend machines that pump concrete, grout, cement, sand, plaster, or stucco through spray guns for application to ceilings or walls.
- Spray materials, such as water, sand, steam, vinyl, paint, or stucco, through hoses to clean, coat, or seal surfaces. Apply caulking compounds by hand or caulking guns to protect against entry of water or air.
- Mop, brush, or spread paints, cleaning solutions, or other compounds over surfaces to clean them or to provide protection.
- Perform site activities required of green certified construction practices, such as implementing waste management procedures, identifying materials for reuse, or installing erosion or sedimentation control mechanisms.
- Green Task Statement
- Apply weather-stripping to reduce energy loss.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Construction Laborer is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51543.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Crane Tower Operator
NUMBER OF OPENING: 12
WAGES/SALARY: $18.63 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $27.95 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Determine load weights and check them against lifting capacities to prevent overload.
- Move levers, depress foot pedals, or turn dials to operate cranes, cherry pickers, electromagnets, or other moving equipment for lifting, moving, or placing loads.
- Inspect and adjust crane mechanisms or lifting accessories to prevent malfunctions or damage.
- Inspect cables or grappling devices for wear and install or replace cables, as needed.
- Direct helpers engaged in placing blocking or outrigging under cranes.
- Clean, lubricate, and maintain mechanisms such as cables, pulleys, or grappling devices, making repairs as necessary.
- Load or unload bundles from trucks or move containers to storage bins, using moving equipment.
- Review daily work or delivery schedules to determine orders, sequences of deliveries, or special loading instructions.
- Inspect bundle packaging for conformance to regulations or customer requirements and remove and batch packaging tickets.
- Direct truck drivers backing vehicles into loading bays and cover, uncover, or secure loads for delivery.
- Weigh bundles, using floor scales, and record weights for company records.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Crane Tower Operator is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51550.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Electrical Technician
NUMBER OF OPENING: 84
WAGES/SALARY: $17.94 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $26.91 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Plan layout and installation of electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, based on job specifications and local codes.
- Connect wires to circuit breakers, transformers, or other components.
- Test electrical systems or continuity of circuits in electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using testing devices, such as ohmmeters, voltmeters, or oscilloscopes, to ensure compatibility and safety of system.
- Use a variety of tools or equipment, such as power construction equipment, measuring devices, power tools, and testing equipment, such as oscilloscopes, ammeters, or test lamps.
- Inspect electrical systems, equipment, or components to identify hazards, defects, or the need for adjustment or repair, and to ensure compliance with codes.
- Prepare sketches or follow blueprints to determine the location of wiring or equipment and to ensure conformance to building and safety codes.
- Diagnose malfunctioning systems, apparatus, or components, using test equipment and hand tools to locate the cause of a breakdown and correct the problem.
- Work from ladders, scaffolds, or roofs to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures.
- Advise management on whether continued operation of equipment could be hazardous.
- Maintain current electrician's license or identification card to meet governmental regulations.
- Place conduit, pipes, or tubing, inside designated partitions, walls, or other concealed areas, and pull insulated wires or cables through the conduit to complete circuits between boxes.
- Direct or train workers to install, maintain, or repair electrical wiring, equipment, or fixtures.
- Repair or replace wiring, equipment, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools.
- Install ground leads and connect power cables to equipment, such as motors.
- Assemble, install, test, or maintain electrical or electronic wiring, equip ment, appliances, apparatus, or fixtures, using hand tools or power tools.
- Perform business management duties, such as maintaining records or files, preparing reports, or ordering supplies or equipment.
- Fasten small metal or plastic boxes to walls to house electrical switches or outlets.
- Construct or fabricate parts, using hand tools, according to specifications.
- Perform physically demanding tasks, such as digging trenches to lay conduit or moving or lifting heavy objects.
- Provide assistance during emergencies by operating floodlights or generators, placing flares, or driving needed vehicles.
- Provide preliminary sketches or cost estimates for materials or services.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as an Electrical Technician is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51544.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Mason
NUMBER OF OPENING: 414
WAGES/SALARY: $14.27 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.41 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Set the forms that hold concrete to the desired pitch and depth, and align them.
- Check the forms that hold the concrete to see that they are properly constructed.
- Spread, level, and smooth concrete, using rake, shovel, hand or power trowel, hand or power screed, and float.
- Monitor how the wind, heat, or cold affect the curing of the concrete throughout the entire process. Direct the casting of the concrete and supervise laborers who use shovels or special tools to spread it.
- Produce rough concrete surface, using broom. Mold expansion joints and edges, using edging tools, jointers, and straightedge.
- Clean chipped area, using wire brush, and feel and observe surface to determine if it is rough or uneven. Signal truck driver to position truck to facilitate pouring concrete, and move chute to direct concrete on forms.
- Apply hardening and sealing compounds to cure surface of concrete, and waterproof or restore surface. Operate power vibrator to compact concrete.
- Chip, scrape, and grind high spots, ridges, and rough projections to finish concrete, using pneumatic chisels, power grinders, or hand tools.
- Cut out damaged areas, drill holes for reinforcing rods, and position reinforcing rods to repair concrete, using power saw and drill.
- Waterproof or restore concrete surfaces, using appropriate compounds.
- Wet concrete surface, and rub with stone to smooth surface and obtain specified finish.
- Wet surface to prepare for bonding, fill holes and cracks with grout or slurry, and smooth, using trowel. Fabricate concrete beams, columns, and panels. Install anchor bolts, steel plates, door sills and other fixtures in freshly poured concrete or pattern or stamp the surface to provide a decorative finish.
- Build wooden molds, and clamp molds around area to be repaired, using hand tools.
- Cut metal division strips, and press them into terrazzo base so that top edges form desired design or pattern.
- Push roller over surface to embed chips in surface.
- Polish surface, using polishing or surfacing machine.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Mason is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51545.

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Painter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 156
WAGES/SALARY: $14.16 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.24 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Fill cracks, holes, or joints with caulk, putty, plaster, or other fillers, using caulking guns or putty knives.
- Cover surfaces with dropcloths or masking tape and paper to protect surfaces during painting.
- Smooth surfaces, using sandpaper, scrapers, brushes, steel wool, or sanding machines.
- Read work orders or receive instructions from supervisors or homeowners to determine work requirements.
- Apply primers or sealers to prepare new surfaces, such as bare wood or metal, for finish coats. Apply paint, stain, varnish, enamel, or other finishes to equipment, buildings, bridges, or other structures, using brushes, spray guns, or rollers. Erect scaffolding or swing gates, or set up ladders, to work above ground level.
- Mix and match colors of paint, stain, or varnish with oil or thinning and drying additives to obtain desired colors and consistencies.
- Calculate amounts of required materials and estimate costs, based on surface measurements or work orders.
- Polish final coats to specified finishes.
- Wash and treat surfaces with oil, turpentine, mildew remover, or other preparations, and sand rough spots to ensure that finishes will adhere properly.
- Select and purchase tools or finishes for surfaces to be covered, consid ering durability, ease of handling, methods of application, and customers' wishes.
- Remove old finishes by stripping, sanding, wire brushing, burning, or using water or abrasive blasting.
- Remove fixtures such as pictures, door knobs, lamps, or electric switch covers prior to painting.
- Use special finishing techniques such as sponging, ragging, layering, or faux finishing. Cut stencils and brush or spray lettering or decorations on surfaces. Waterproof buildings, using waterproofers or caulking.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Painter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51546

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Plumber
NUMBER OF OPENING: 264
WAGES/SALARY: $16.68 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $25.02 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Assemble pipe sections, tubing, or fittings, using couplings, clamps, screws, bolts, cement, plastic solvent, caulking, or soldering, brazing, or welding equipment.
- Install pipe assemblies, fittings, valves, appliances such as dishwashers or water heaters, or fixtures such as sinks or toilets, using hand or power tools.
- Keep records of work assignments.
- Fill pipes or plumbing fixtures with water or air and observe pressure gauges to detect and locate leaks. Direct helpers engaged in pipe cutting, preassembly, or installation of plumbing systems or components. Maintain or repair plumbing by replacing defective washers, replacing or mending broken pipes, or opening clogged drains.
- Locate and mark the position of pipe installations, connections, passage holes, or fixtures in structures, using measuring instruments such as rulers or levels.
- Measure, cut, thread, or bend pipe to required angle, using hand or power tools or machines, such as pipe cutters, pipe-threading machines, or pipe-bending machines.
- Review blueprints, building codes, or specifications to determine work details or procedures.
- Anchor steel supports from ceiling joists to hold pipes in place.
- Estimate time, material, or labor costs for use in project plans. Install underground storm, sanitary, or water piping systems, extending piping as needed to connect fixtures and plumbing.
- Inspect structures to assess material or equipment needs, to establish the sequence of pipe installations, or to plan installation around obstructions, such as electrical wiring.
- Install green plumbing equipment, such as faucet flow restrictors, dual-flush or pressure-assisted flush toilets, or tankless hot water heaters. Green Task Statement Cut openings in structures to accommodate pipes or pipe fittings, using hand or power tools.
- Weld small pipes or special piping, using specialized techniques, equipment, or materials, such as computer-assisted welding or microchip fabrication.
- Green Task Statement Install alternative water sources, such as rainwater harvesting systems or graywater reuse systems.
- Green Task Statement
- Recommend energy or water saving products, such as low-flow faucets or shower heads, water-saving toilets, or high-efficiency hot water heaters.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Plumber is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51547

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Riveter
NUMBER OF OPENING: 12
WAGES/SALARY: $14.01 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.02 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Rivets structural members, assemblies, and parts of structures, using portable riveting, dimpling, and drilling machines and hand tools.
- Reads work orders, blueprints, and operation sheets to determine sequence of operations and type size and hole pattern of rivets.
- Removes temporary bolts or fasteners and inserts rivets in pre-drilled holes.
- Places drive head of rivet gun against rivet shank and pulls trigger to actuate hammer that spreads rivet, or spreads rivet, using rivet set and hammer.
- Rivets together adjoining edges of structural components and assemblies.
- Places two dies of rivet squeezer over head and shank of rivet, and presses trigger to activate dies that flatten shank of rivet. Drills and reams rivet holes and drills out defective rivets.
- Forms dimples around rivet holes, using portable dimpling gun or stationary dimpling machine.
- May align and assemble parts to be riveted, using jigs, holding fixtures, pins, clamps, and fasteners.
- May buck rivets.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
12 months of on-the-job experience as a Riveter is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51548.

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Steel Worker
NUMBER OF OPENING: 102
WAGES/SALARY: $14.01 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $21.02 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Read specifications or blueprints to determine the locations, quantities, or sizes of materials required. Connect columns, beams, and girders with bolts, following blueprints and instructions from supervisors. Bolt aligned structural steel members in position for permanent riveting, bolting, or welding into place. Fasten structural steel members to hoist cables, using chains, cables, or rope.
- Hoist steel beams, girders, or columns into place, using cranes or signaling hoisting equipment operators to lift and position structural steel members.
- Verify vertical and horizontal alignment of structural steel members, using plumb bobs, laser equipment, transits, or levels. Cut, bend, or weld steel pieces, using metal shears, torches, or welding equipment. Erect metal or precast concrete components for structures, such as buildings, bridges, dams, towers, storage tanks, fences, or highway guard rails.
- Force structural steel members into final positions, using turnbuckles, crowbars, jacks, or hand tools.
- Pull, push, or pry structural steel members into approximate positions for bolting into place. Unload and position prefabricated steel units for hoisting as needed.
- Drive drift pins through rivet holes to align rivet holes in structural steel members with corresponding holes in previously placed members.
- Assemble hoisting equipment or rigging, such as cables, pulleys, or hooks, to move heavy equipment or materials.
- Fabricate metal parts, such as steel frames, columns, beams, or girders, according to blueprints or instructions from supervisors.
- Dismantle structures or equipment. Ride on girders or other structural steel members to position them or use rope to guide them into position.
- Insert sealing strips, wiring, insulating material, ladders, flanges, gauges, or valves, depending on types of structures being assembled.
- Hold rivets while riveters use air hammers to form heads on rivets.
- Insert sealing strips, wiring, insulating material, ladders, flanges, gauges, or valves, depending on types of structures being assembled.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Plumber is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51549

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IMPERIAL PACIFIC
INTERNATIONAL (CNMI), LLC

imperialpacificsaipan.com

JOB TITLE: Welder
NUMBER OF OPENING: 156
WAGES/SALARY: $17.63 per hour
OVERTIME RATE: $26.45 per hour

EMPLOYMENT BASIS & DURATION
This job opportunity is for a temporary, full-time position beginning on January 31, 2018 and ending on August 31, 2018.

JOB LOCATION
Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands 96950.

JOB DUTIES
- Weld components in flat, vertical, or overhead positions. Operate safety equipment and use safe work habits.
- Lay out, position, align, and secure parts and assemblies prior to assembly, using straightedges, combination squares, calipers, and rulers.
- Examine workpieces for defects and measure workpieces with straight edges or templates to ensure conformance with specifications.
- Recognize, set up, and operate hand and power tools common to the welding trade, such as shielded metal arc and gas metal arc welding equipment.
- Weld separately or in combination, using aluminum, stainless steel, cast iron, and other alloys.
- Clamp, hold, tack-weld, heat-bend, grind or bolt component parts to obtain required configurations and positions for welding. Select and install torches, torch tips, filler rods, and flux, according to welding chart specifications or types and thicknesses of metals.
- Ignite torches or start power supplies and strike arcs by touching electrodes to metals being welded, completing electrical circuits.
- Connect and turn regulator valves to activate and adjust gas flow and pressure so that desired flames are obtained.
- Determine required equipment and welding methods, applying knowledge of metallurgy, geometry, and welding techniques.
- Monitor the fitting, burning, and welding processes to avoid overheating of parts or warping, shrinking, distortion, or expansion of material.
- Operate manual or semi-automatic welding equipment to fuse metal segments, using processes such as gas tungsten arc, gas metal arc, flux-cored arc, plasma arc, shielded metal arc, resistance welding, and submerged arc welding.
- Analyze engineering drawings, blueprints, specifications, sketches, work orders, and material safety data sheets to plan layout, assembly, and welding operations.
- Mark or tag material with proper job number, piece marks, and other identifying marks as required.
- Chip or grind off excess weld, slag, or spatter, using hand scrapers or power chippers, portable grinders, or arc-cutting equipment.
- Remove rough spots from workpieces, using portable grinders, hand files, or scrapers.
- Prepare all material surfaces to be welded, ensuring that there is no loose or thick scale, slag, rust, moisture, grease, or other foreign matter.
- Preheat workpieces prior to welding or bending, using torches or heating furnaces. Develop templates and models for welding projects, using mathematical calculations based on blueprint information.
- Position and secure workpieces, using hoists, cranes, wire, and banding machines or hand tools.
- Guide and direct flames or electrodes on or across workpieces to straighten, bend, melt, or build up metal.
- Detect faulty operation of equipment or defective materials and notify supervisors.
- Clean or degrease parts, using wire brushes, portable grinders, or chemical baths.
- Cut, contour, and bevel metal plates and structural shapes to dimensions as specified by blueprints, layouts, work orders, and templates, using powered saws, hand shears, or chipping knives.
- Repair products by dismantling, straightening, reshaping, and reassem bling parts, using cutting torches, straightening presses, and hand tools.
- Fill holes, and increase the size of metal parts.
- Check grooves, angles, or gap allowances, using micrometers, calipers, and precision measuring instruments.
- Operate metal shaping, straightening, and bending machines, such as brakes and shears.
- Set up and use ladders and scaffolding as necessary to complete work.
- Hammer out bulges or bends in metal workpieces.
- Dismantle metal assemblies or cut scrap metal, using thermal-cutting equipment, such as flame-cutting torches or plasma-arc equipment.
- Signal crane operators to move large workpieces. Use fire suppression methods in industrial emergencies.
- Estimate materials needed for production and manufacturing and maintain required stocks of materials.

QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS
24 months of on-the-job experience as a Welder is a minimum requirement for this position.

WORK HOURS
Employees hired under this announcement will work on rotating 8-hour shifts. Day Shift will be from 6:00 a.m. until 2:00 p.m. Swing Shift will be from 2:00 p.m. until 10:00 p.m. Night Shift will be from 10:00 p.m. until 6:00 a.m. Every employee hired under this announcement will be rotated through each of the three (3) shifts on an ongoing basis until the project is complete. Every employee will work for seven (7) days and then be given two (2) days off after each Day and Swing Shift rotation and be given three (3) days off after each Night Shift rotation, therefore work on Saturdays and Sundays will be required. Employer will offer a minimum of forty (40) hours of regular time and two (2) hours of overtime a week. Time worked over forty (40) hours per week will be compensated at an overtime rate of 1.5 times the standard hourly rate for this position.

JOB LOCATION
Work will be performed at the Imperial Pacific Resort Hotel-Saipan worksite.

SINGLE WORKWEEK FOR PAY
The employer will use a single workweek as its standard for computing wages due.

FREQUENCY OF PAY
Workers will be paid on Friday (bi-weekly) by check.

HOUSING & MEAL
The employer will provide housing at $25.00 per week deductible from employees for the duration of employment. The employees will be provided one (1) duty meal per day at no expense for the duration of the employment.

DEDUCTIONS
The employer will make all deductions from the employee's paycheck required by law.

INBOUND/OUTBOUND TRANSPORTATION AND SUBSISTENCE
The Employer shall pay for all inbound transportation and subsistence from the place of recruitment to the place of work. Upon completion of the work contract, or where the worker is dismissed earlier, the employer will provide or pay for worker's reasonable costs of return transportation and subsistence back home or to the place the worker originally departed to work, except where the worker will not return due to subsequent employment with another employer or where the employer has appropriately reported a worker's voluntary abandonment of employment. The amount of transportation payment or reimbursement will be equal to the most economical and reasonable common carrier for the distances involved, provided that the amount for daily subsistence will be at least $12.07 per day during travel to a maximum of $51.00 per day with receipts.

DAILY TRANSPORTATION
The employer will provide daily transportation at no charge to and from the worker's provided lodging for the duration of the employment.

FIRST WORK WEEK REIMBURSEMENT
Workers will be reimbursed in the first workweek for all visa, visa processing, border crossing and other related fees, including those mandated by the government (except passport fees).

PROVISION OF TOOLS, SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT
The employer will provide workers at no charge all tools, supplies, and equipment required to perform the job. Furthermore, the employer will supply workers at no charge all safety clothing and equipment and will require all workers to wear such clothing and equipment always during work.

SAFETY EQUIPMENT
Employees are required to wear protective equipment i.e. safety hat, safety shoes, goggles, or other garments or equipment at all times during the work hours at the construction site. Employees are also required to follow all safety regulations.

RECRUITMENT INFORMATION
Please visit Imperial Pacific Recruitment office located at Vesctor Office #6, Capitol Hill, Saipan or contact our recruitment team at 670-237-9901.

SWA CONTACT INFORMATION
Please inquire about the job opportunity or send applications and/or resumes, indicating availability, to CNMI Department of Labor at Building #1356 Mednilla Avenue Capitol Hill, Saipan MP 96950 or visit their website at www.marianaslabor.net and Job Order reference number: 17-12-51551

This Company is an equal opportunity employer dedicated to a policy of nondiscrimination in employment, regardless of a person's sex, sexual orientation, race, color, religion, national origin, age or disability. All data collected will be kept confidential and used for recruitment purposes only.

Environment

Are real or artificial Christmas trees better for the environment?

By JESSICA ROY
LOS ANGELES TIMES

Is a real Christmas tree or an artificial one better for the environment? TNS

The question: Is a real Christmas tree better for the environment than a fake one?

The answer: It depends on your plans for the future.

Every year, 95 million families in America put up a Christmas tree. Deciding whether to go with the real thing or an artificial version involves lots of factors. Some people don't think it's really Christmas unless their living room has that "real tree" smell. Others would rather have Santa trap them in the chimney than spend the season sweeping up pine needles and crawling under the tree to refill the water.

In other words, environmental considerations are probably low on most people's lists.

But it's something that Christmas tree growers and manufacturers think about. Their industry trade group, the American Christmas Tree Association, commissioned a study of the lifetime environmental impact of both real and artificial trees. (Calling them "fake trees" is something of a faux pas in the Christmas tree industry.)

In both cases, there are costs, according to the 2010 report.

To grow real Christmas trees, you need dirt, water, pesticide, herbicide and fungicide. Then you need gasoline to harvest and transport them, as well as the human labor to do all of that. (Some tree farms also spray the trees with colorant to maintain the vibrant greenery.)

There's a common misconception about where real trees come from. Lynn Wunderlich, who works with Christmas tree farmers in her role as farm advisor for the University of California Cooperative Extension, said many people assume the trees are cut down in forests and stolen from nature. In reality, Christmas trees are grown on farms in California, Oregon, Washington, Michigan, North Carolina, Tennessee and other states, and they are meant to be cut down.

Christmas trees — including the Monterey pine, which is the most commonly grown variety in California — are a bit less water-intensive than fruit trees, Wunderlich said. Also, while the tree is growing, it's removing carbon dioxide from the air and turning it back into oxygen.

To manufacture an artificial Christmas tree, you need PVC plastic, steel and aluminum, plus cardboard for the packaging and the resources to ship the trees from Asia, where most of them are made. The total amount of raw materials needed to manufacture an artificial Christmas tree is roughly equal to the amount needed to make an upholstered patio chair.

What happens to the tree after the presents have been opened is another factor to consider. Some areas let residents compost real trees. Others incinerate them or send them to a landfill. Each option has its benefits and drawbacks. Artificial trees can be donated to places like Goodwill and nursing homes, but their ultimate destination is a landfill — they can't be recycled.

So which one has the greater environmental impact?

On a one-to-one basis, a real tree requires considerably fewer resources to create and get to the customer than an artificial tree, said William Paddock, the managing director of WAP Sustainability Consulting in Chattanooga, Tenn., who oversaw the peer-reviewed study. But if you plan to reuse your artificial tree, which most people do, the environmental impact eventually tips in favor of the artificial tree.

"Over the course of time, there is a break-even point," Paddock said. "The question becomes, how many years does it take?"

The most conservative estimates suggest it takes nine years of use for an artificial tree to be a better choice than buying a real tree every year. Paddock said six years is probably a more reasonable guess.

There isn't data on how long the average person keeps an artificial tree before disposing of it, but "not a lot of people use it once and never again," he said. "My parents have the one we've had since I was 10 years old."

The trade group's 2017 Christmas tree survey, conducted by Nielsen, found that 81 percent of Americans have artificial trees, and 19 percent go for the real thing.

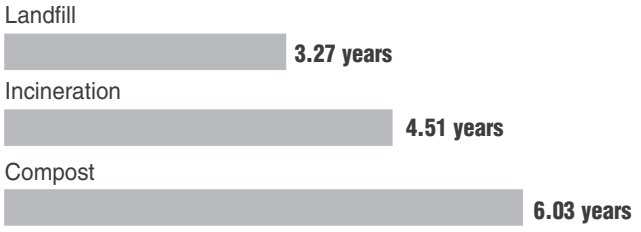
Either way, the environmental impact is not particularly significant in the grand scheme of things.

"We believe there is no bad choice when it comes to a Christmas tree," said Jami Warner, the trade group's executive director. "Choose either tree, relax, enjoy the holidays."

The break-even point on artificial trees

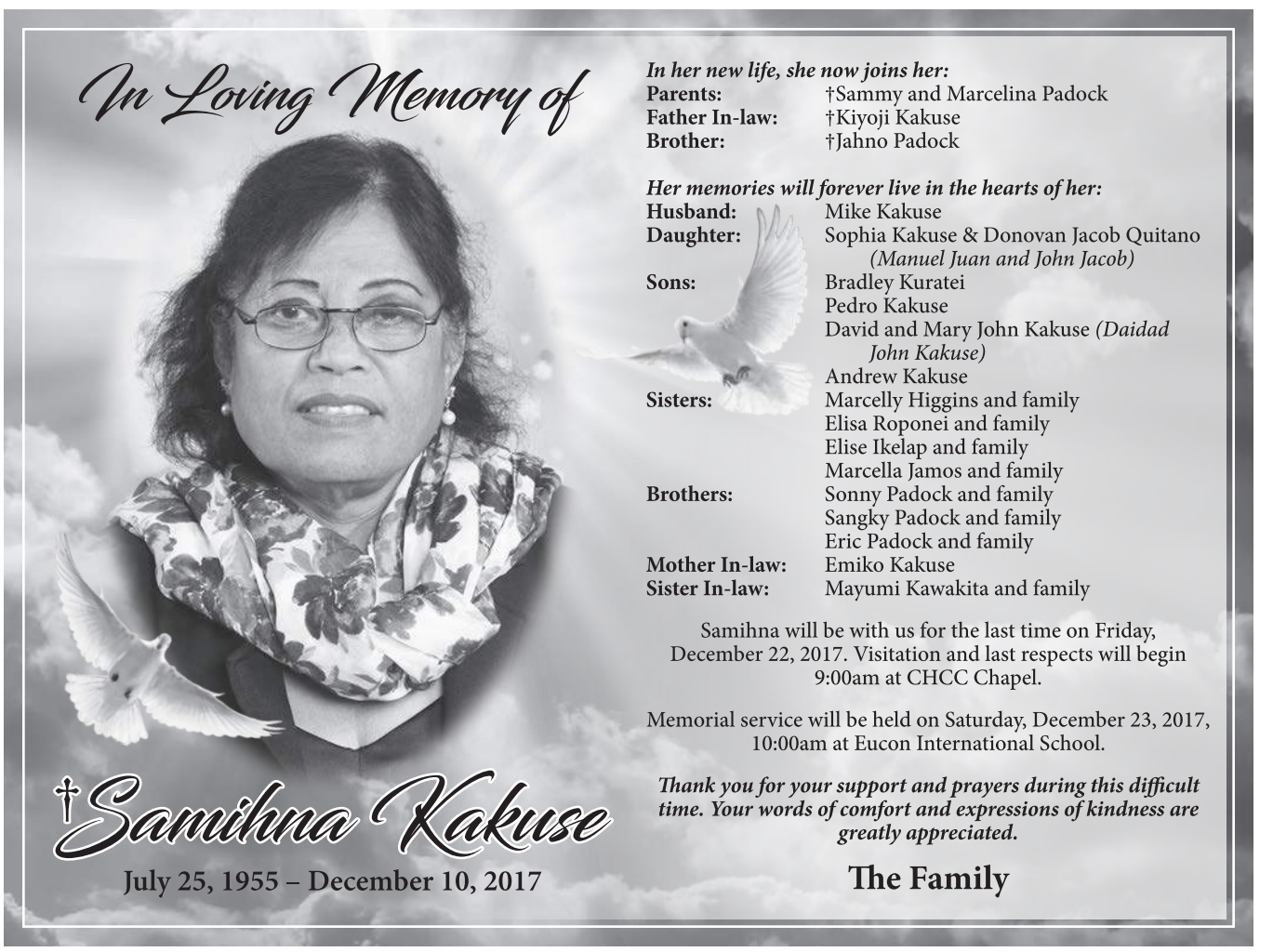
Making an artificial tree takes up more resources than growing a real one, but assuming you reuse it, the impact evens out. Here's how long it takes:

Disposal method of real tree



Note: Comparison assumes consumer buys a real tree every year.
Measured by Primary Energy Demand from nonrenewable resources.

Source: PE Americas Graphic: Los Angeles Times/TNS


In Loving Memory of
†Samihna Kakuse
July 25, 1955 – December 10, 2017
In her new life, she now joins her:
Parents: †Sammy and Marcelina Padock
Father In-law: †Kiyoji Kakuse
Brother: †Jahno Padock
Her memories will forever live in the hearts of her:
Husband: Mike Kakuse
Daughter: Sophia Kakuse & Donovan Jacob Quitano (Manuel Juan and John Jacob)
Sons: Bradley Kuratei
Pedro Kakuse
David and Mary John Kakuse (Daidad John Kakuse)
Andrew Kakuse
Sisters: Marcelly Higgins and family
Elisa Roponei and family
Elise Ikelap and family
Marcella Jamos and family
Brothers: Sonny Padock and family
Sangky Padock and family
Eric Padock and family
Mother In-law: Emiko Kakuse
Sister In-law: Mayumi Kawakita and family
Samihna will be with us for the last time on Friday, December 22, 2017. Visitation and last respects will begin 9:00am at CHCC Chapel.
Memorial service will be held on Saturday, December 23, 2017, 10:00am at Eucon International School.
Thank you for your support and prayers during this difficult time. Your words of comfort and expressions of kindness are greatly appreciated.
The Family

Life & Style

The Year of #MeToo: A scoop, a tweet, and then a reckoning

This combination photo shows, top row from left, Kevin Spacey, Brett Ratner, Louis C.K., Distin Hoffman, and bottom row from left, former Alabama Senate candidate Roy Moore, Sen. Al Franken, D-Minn., former "Today" morning co-host Matt Lauer and former "CBS This Morning" co-host Charlie Rose, all of whom have been accused of sexual misconduct. AP

NEW YORK (AP)—It began with a news story, and then a tweet, and suddenly it seemed like everything had changed overnight. 2017 will forever be known as the Year of the Reckoning.

Or, more precisely, the year of the beginning of the reckoning. Because at year's end, the phenomenon of powerful men being knocked off their perches by allegations of sexual misconduct— in Hollywood, on morning television, in chic restaurant kitchens, in the U.S. Senate— showed no signs of slowing. Each morning, we awoke to ask: "Who's next?"

To that question, we should also add, "What next?" Because as the year drew to a close, many were also wondering just how deep and lasting the change would prove, going forward. Was this, indeed, the cultural earthquake many have called it? Or was there a chance it might all eventually slip away?

"We can't be sure," says Gloria Steinem. "But what I CAN be sure of is that this is the first time I've seen women being believed." And that, says the feminist author, "is profoundly different."

Whatever forces had been stirring under the surface, it all burst into the open with an October scoop in the New York Times, a story alleging shocking misconduct by Harvey Weinstein. The powerful producer's misbehavior had long been the subject of whispers, but it was actress Ashley Judd who finally gave a well-known name to the allegations— a crucial launching point for what followed. Her account of a hotel-room encounter in which Weinstein asked her to give him a massage or watch him shower sounded familiar to many others, who were inspired in the ensuing days to come forward with their own allegations against Weinstein, from harassment to assault to rape. To date, some 80 women have come forward; Weinstein still denies all nonconsensual sex.

Then came the tweet heard round the world.

"If all the women who have been sexually harassed or assaulted wrote 'Me too' as a status," actress/activist Alyssa Milano tweeted on Oct. 15, "we might give people a sense of the magnitude of the problem." Then she went to bed.

"I couldn't have been in bed more than eight hours, because I'm a mom," Milano says now. When she awoke, tens of thousands had taken up the #MeToo hashtag (a phrase introduced 10 years ago by social activist Tarana Burke.) Less than 10 days later, Milano tweeted that more than 1.7 million people in 85 countries had used the hashtag.

"The thing that was so surprising was the sheer magnitude and the quickness of how it happened," Milano says. But she feels conditions had been ripe for a good year.

It began, she says, with the election of President Donald Trump, who had bragged openly about groping women. On top of that came some aggressive investigative reporting— she cites Ronan Farrow in The New Yorker— and the domino effect of women emboldening each other to come forward. Public fascination with anything Hollywood didn't hurt either. "For this to have taken off the way it did, it had to be a perfect storm and we had to be ready," she says.

Even before #MeToo happened, and just a few days after the Weinstein story broke, Anita Hill was sure something significant was happening. "I think we need something to push the needle and I think this has done it," said Hill, a symbol of the fight against sexual harassment ever since her 1991 Senate testimony against then-Supreme Court nominee Clarence Thomas. Still, she noted, it was a lot easier for Hollywood stars like Gwyneth Paltrow and Angelina Jolie to speak out than it was for ordinary women experiencing harassment from their bosses.

But Hill, who for years has been living a quiet academic life at Brandeis University, stressed that the next step has to be more than just conversation: "We now have to start putting into place measures at schools and workplaces and the military ... about how people should be treated, and we have to enforce them." Hill has just been named to a new commission on sexual harassment in the entertainment industry.

As the weeks went on, the accusers multiplied, and so did the accused, from Hollywood (Kevin Spacey, Louis C.K., Brett Ratner, Dustin Hoffman) to the news business (top morning hosts Charlie Rose and Matt Lauer) to the music world (Russell Simmons) to politics (Sen. Al Franken, Alabama candidate Roy Moore) to the food world (Mario Batali). The accused lost jobs, TV shows, book deals, a Senate seat— with dizzying speed (Spacey was even erased from a completed movie.) Some simply apologized, while others fought back— like Simmons, with his hashtag #NotMe. Some apologies were more effective than others. Spacey drew flak for deciding to come out as gay as he apologized for unwanted sexual advances; Batali was scorned for appending to his email-blast apology a recipe for Pizza Dough Cinnamon Rolls.

A few voices called for differentiating between levels of sexual misconduct. It didn't always go over well. When Matt Damon said "I just think we have to start delineating between what these behaviors are," Milano replied on Twitter that there are various stages of cancer, "but it's still cancer."

Not to be forgotten were the accusers who decided not to come forward with their names, many out of fear of retaliation. Attorney Gloria Allred, who held news conferences with some Weinstein accusers, said there were many more she'd spoken to who have not yet gone public.

And what about the alleged abusers we've never heard of, because they're not famous? "There have been stunning accounts of farm workers harassed in the field, factory workers on lines, restaurant workers," says law professor Catharine MacKinnon, who decades ago pioneered the legal claim that sexual harassment is a form of sex discrimination. "They don't have the high-profile man ... but I'm telling you, to the women he does it to, he's plenty big."

Ridley Scott hasn't heard from Spacey after film replacement

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Director Ridley Scott says he hasn't heard from Kevin Spacey since the decision was made to cut the actor from "All the Money in the World."

"I don't know where he is," Scott said in a recent interview. "He's gone down underground."

"All the Money in the World" is about the kidnapping of the teenage grandson of wealthy American industrialist J. Paul Getty.

The film was completed in October, with Spacey cast as Getty. After sexual misconduct allegations were made against the actor, Spacey was cut from the movie. Christopher Plummer stepped into the role. Reshoots began almost immediately.

While promoting the movie over the weekend, Scott said "it would have been nice to have some kind of call, even if it was from his (Spacey's) representative."

Now, he said, "It's just too late."

Plummer agreed— "I was very anxious to work with Ridley anyway," he said. "I took the script home. The next morning, I called, said, 'Yes. Absolutely. Let's go.'"

To get the movie ready for its Dec. 25 release date, Scott had to raise additional funds and rearrange cast and crew members for reshoots.

After that, Scott recalls spending the next 36 hours on the phone figuring out the logistics needed to get the reshoots done. Scott said Michelle Williams and Mark Wahlberg, the other stars of the film, responded quickly.

"They were all ready. Michelle said, 'I'll do it.' She might have been in the middle of a film,'" Scott said. "Mark was needed for a day and a half."

The entire reshoot took nine days.

"Obviously, the most important thing was respecting the victims in this case. You know, whether there are allegations or not— there were many— and it's important to make sure that was dealt with with the respect and sensitivity that it deserved. Many people have been replaced in films many times, including films that I've been involved with on both sides of the spectrum. So those kind of things happen, but it was a decision that Ridley made and we all certainly supported him in that decision," said Wahlberg, who also attended the film's premiere.

Part of the rush to finish the film was self-imposed: Danny Boyle's FX series "Trust," also about the Getty kidnapping, debuts next month, so Scott felt the original release date had to be met.

Plummer credits Scott's sense of humor with getting everyone through the mad dash.

"He has a delicious sense of humor and that's what kept me— gave me such confidence and calmed everything down on the set. It was wonderful," Plummer said.

Plummer also showed he could poke fun at the situation. During the promotional interviews for the movie, he brought a cake that depicted him playing all the roles behind the camera.

Plummer's version of Getty will be the only one anyone ever sees. At the film's premiere Monday night, Ridley told The Associated Press that he wouldn't release a director's cut with Spacey's work.

"Over my dead body. No," Scott said. "I don't think that would be very graceful. There's a great word called grace, right? So I wouldn't do that, no."

Michael Jackson sex abuse lawsuit dismissed

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A judge on Tuesday dismissed the lawsuit brought by a choreographer who alleged Michael Jackson molested him as a child, resolving one of the last major claims against the late singer's holdings.

Judge Mitchell L. Beckloff's summary judgment ruling against the now-35-year-old Wade Robson found that the two Jackson-owned corporations, which were the remaining defendants in the case, were not liable for Robson's exposure to Jackson. He did not rule on the credibility of Robson's allegations themselves.

Robson's attorney, Vince Finaldi, said he strongly disagrees and plans to appeal.

Robson, a native of Australia who has worked with Britney Spears and NSYNC, met Jackson when he was 5 years old.

He testified in Jackson's defense at the singer's 2005 criminal trial, saying he had spent the night at Jackson's Neverland Ranch more than 20 times and usually slept in Jackson's room, but Jackson never molested him. Jackson was acquitted in that trial.

Then in 2013 about four years after the singer's death, Robson sued the Jackson estate for what his attorneys described as molestation that spanned a seven-year period.

A court ruled in 2015 that Robson had filed his lawsuit too late to get any of Jackson's estate. That left two remaining defendants, both corporate entities owned by Jackson in his lifetime: MJJ Productions, Inc., and MJJ Ventures, Inc.

The judge ruled Tuesday that those two corporate defendants could not be held responsible for Robson's exposure to Jackson, the way a school or the Boy Scouts can be found liable for bringing together an abusive adult and a child victim.

Finaldi said the reasoning sets a dangerous precedent.

"What the judge is saying is that you if own a corporation or a company, you can hire people, use these people to facilitate your sexual abuse, use them to facilitate victims," Finaldi told The Associated Press by phone. "So long as you're the sole owner of that corporation, the corporation can't be held liable."

AP

In this June 13, 2005 photo, Michael Jackson gestures as he leaves court during his trial on child molestation charges in Santa Maria, Calif.

Margot Robbie plans to return to ice rink for Christmas

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Margot Robbie learned to ice skate for "I, Tonya" and loved it, but she hasn't donned skates since, something she said she's hoping to change over the Christmas break.

The actress says ice antics are prohibited by most movie contracts for insurance reasons, and she's been shooting all year.

Now that her work on three upcoming films is done, though, Robbie says getting back on the blades is part of her holiday plans.

"I want to get back on my skates over Christmas," she said. "I have been consistently under contract this year and I haven't been allowed to ice skate."

Besides giving the actress a new sport to enjoy, her training for "I, Tonya" led to an awards-worthy result: The film racked up three Golden Globe nominations and two Screen Actors Guild Awards last week.

AP

Margot Robbie arrives at the West Coast debut of 29rooms at ROW DTLA on Wednesday, Dec. 6, 2017, in Los Angeles.

Author of online hit 'Cat Person' has 7-figure book deal

NEW YORK (AP)—The author of the online sensation "Cat Person" has a seven-figure book deal.

Scout Press, an imprint of Simon & Schuster, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that Kristen Roupenian's debut story collection "You Know You Want This" is scheduled for the spring of 2019. Scout Press did not disclose financial details for the two-book deal, which also includes a novel. But two publishing officials told the AP that bidding topped $1 million. The officials spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to discuss negotiations. Last week, rights in the United Kingdom were obtained by publisher Jonathan Cape.

"Cat Person," released by The New Yorker earlier this month, is the fictional story of a 20-year-old woman and a 34-year-old man who become friendly through texting and of the disillusion that follows. It quickly went viral and was widely debated and analyzed, with The Washington Post praising the story for capturing "the experience not of print-oriented, older intellectuals but of millennials.

"As some Twitter users said, young people rarely see the phenomenon of modern dating— meeting online, talking through text messages, moving to in-person encounters shadowed with the expectation of sex— taken so seriously," wrote the Post's Molly Roberts.

Lady Gaga achieves 'dream' with Las Vegas residency

LAS VEGAS (AP)—Lady Gaga will join the list of superstars with regularly scheduled shows in Las Vegas in 2018, when she kicks off a two-year residency in December.

Gaga in a statement Tuesday says it has been her "life-long dream" to perform in Las Vegas. She says she is humbled to be joining a historical lineup of performers that include Tony Bennett, Frank Sinatra and Elvis Presley.

The announcement comes at the end of a successful year for the superstar that included a stunning Super Bowl performance and a sold-out tour.

MGM Resorts International did not immediately announce performance dates at Park Theater. The 5,300-seat venue is located at the Park MGM casino-resort, formerly known as the Monte Carlo. It hosted the residencies of Cher and Ricky Martin.

AP

In this Oct. 21, 2017, file photo, Lady Gaga performs during a hurricanes relief concert in College Station, Texas.

Family split by repercussions of a long-repressed assault

DEAR ABBY: I am estranged from my sister, whom I love dearly. The reason goes back many years. When I was 13, her husband got me drunk and molested me. While I never forgot, I did repress it—possibly due to my age.

Time went on, I thought I had moved on and life would continue as usual. Well, five years ago the trauma erupted inside of me. My therapist thinks that possibly what triggered it was becoming a grandmother.

I cannot talk to my sister's husband, let alone look at him. The sight of him makes me physically ill, which is obvious to everyone. Exposing him would devastate my sister, her family and our extended family.

I am praying for guidance and the strength to forgive him, but it's not working, and neither is therapy. I am now regarded as the "bad guy" and left isolated with no one except my amazing husband. My own kids are skeptical and think I am destroying our family. Advice, Abby?

SO LOST IN THE MIDWEST

DEAR SO LOST: Because keeping quiet and talking to a therapist haven't helped you, I will suggest another route for healing. Call your family together. Tell them exactly what happened when you were 13 and that you can no longer keep quiet about it.

At the same time, contact a rape crisis center because at 13, even if you were drunk and consented to what your brother-in-law did, you were underage and a victim of statutory rape. If your family accuses you of making this up, invite them to some of your counseling sessions with the rape counselor. With the help of that person, you may be able to help them see the light.

DEAR ABBY: I was a professional musician most of my life and loved every second of it. While I still do production work and an occasional performance, I no longer tour or need the money from the shows.

I own several instruments that are my most prized possessions, and have many precious memories associated with them. They are worth several thousand dollars. I cannot think of anyone to leave them to who might appreciate them.

None of my heirs are musical, and I'm estranged from my only child, a son in his early 40s. If he inherited them, he'd sell them and squander the money before the last chorus. The same is true of my only grandchild.

I'm in my early 60s, healthy, active and don't plan on going anywhere anytime soon. But eventually—when I do—I want these most important items to go where they will be played well and appreciated.

QUARTER NOTE QUANDARY IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR ABBY

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Contact Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

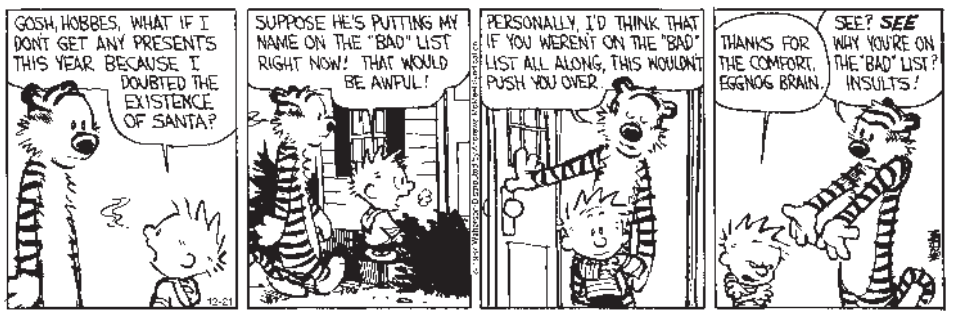
DEAR Q.N.Q.: How about donating your instruments to a program that keeps music alive in schools with underfunded music programs nationwide? An organization to consider is the Mr. Holland's Opus Foundation. It gives economically disadvantaged youth access to the benefits of music education, and helps them to be better students and express their emotions and creativity through playing music. The foundation also has a fund called Music Rising that helps school music programs after natural disasters. The website is mhopus.org. If you check it out, I'm sure you will find it interesting.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send your name and mailing address, plus check or money order for $7 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby – Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. Shipping and handling are included in the price.

Pastimes

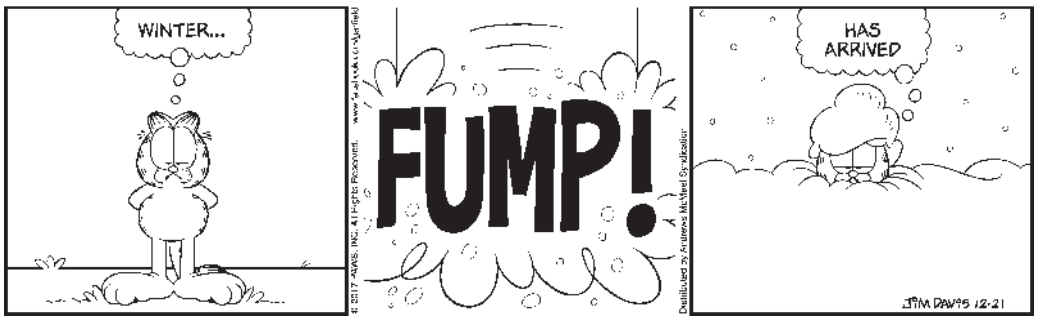
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


GOSH, HOBBES, WHAT IF I DON'T GET ANY PRESENTS THIS YEAR BECAUSE I DOUBTED THE EXISTENCE OF SANTA?
SUPPOSE HE'S PUTTING MY NAME ON THE "BAD" LIST RIGHT NOW! THAT WOULD BE AWFUL!
PERSONALLY, I'D THINK THAT IF YOU WEREN'T ON THE "BAD" LIST ALL ALONG, THIS WOULDN'T PUSH YOU OVER.
THANKS FOR THE COMFORT, EGGNOG BRAIN.
SEE? SEE WHY YOU'RE ON THE "BAD" LIST? INSULTS!

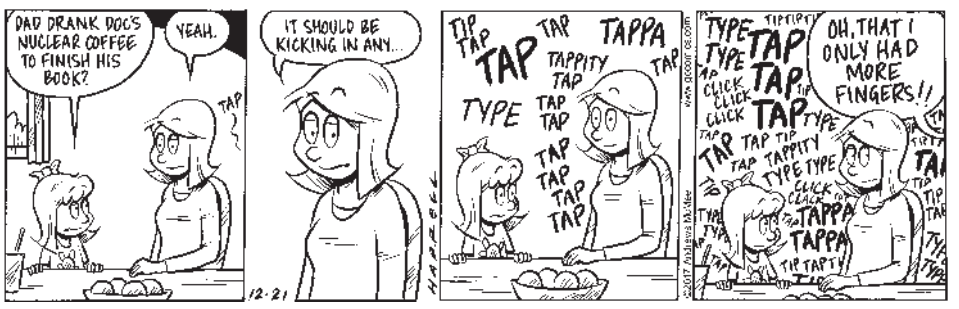
Garfield®

By Jim Davis



Adam@home

By Bryan Basset


DAD DRANK DOC'S NUCLEAR COFFEE TO FINISH HIS BOOK?
YEAH.
IT SHOULD BE KICKING IN ANY...
TIP TAP TAP TAP TAPPA TAPPITY TAP TYPE
TYPE TAP TAP CLICK CLICK TAP TAPPITY TYPE TYPE TAPPA TIP TAPPY
OH, THAT I ONLY HAD MORE FINGERS!!
12-21

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

NOTHING BETTER THAN HOT CHOCOLATE AND WATCHING "RUDOLPH"!
STAY TUNED FOR AN "ALL STAR CHRISTMAS"!
WHAT THE?!
I GUESS "RUDOLPH" WAS ON LAST NIGHT.
THINGS COULDN'T GET ANY WORSE.
AND NOW, TONY BENNETT WILL RAP "SILENT NIGHT."

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

1 China flaw
5 Dapper fellow
8 Jazz great Getz
12 Vow
13 Eggs
14 Heap
15 Japanese soup
16 "— the ramparts ..."
17 Fascinated by
18 Jimmying tool
20 Kit of the Wild West
22 Egos' counterparts
23 '60s war zone
24 "The Thin Man" dog
27 On pins and needles
32 LXVII tripled
33 Author Umberto
34 — -la-la
35 Antique photos
38 Bloke
39 Sportage maker
40 Ecol. watchdog
42 Furtive
45 Dim the lights
49 Frau's mate
50 Japanese sash
52 Carousel, for one
53 Location
54 State VIP
55 Early auto-maker
56 Pantheon members
57 Consumed
58 Santa's sackful

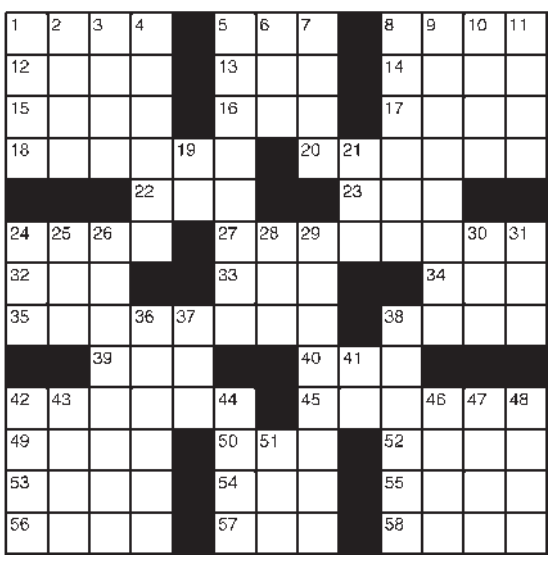
DOWN

1 Provide for free, informally
2 Tresses
3 Teeny
4 Fear
5 Threshold
6 St. crosser
7 DEA agent
8 Staircase shape
9 Metal worker
10 Saxophone range
11 Night light?
19 Commercial
21 Director Lee
24 Revue segment
25 High school subj.
26 Monkeyed (with)
28 Water cooler?
29 Sudden plunge
30 Gun lobby org.
31 Opening
36 Prom queen toppers
37 Tibetan bovine
38 Snowman's nose
41 Dad
42 Carpet type
43 Roman emperor
44 Meditative practice
46 Metric weight
47 Vortex
48 Legendary loch
51 Automaton, for short

Solution time: 24 mins.

A	J	R	A	■	J	I	M	■	B	A	D	E
B	R	A	G	■	A	R	E	■	A	R	C	N
B	A	K	E	R	I	E	S	■	S	T	U	D
E	L	E	N	A	■	■	A	S	T	E	R	S
■	■	■	C	H	I	N	■	H	E	R	■	■
F	J	R	Y	■	D	A	D	E	■	I	T	S
■	S	E	■	R	O	B	E	S	■	E	V	E
■	C	V	■	A	L	O	E	■	P	S	S	T
■	■	E	■	M	■	B	R	A	E	■	■	■
M	C	R	F	S	O	■	■	■	D	E	I	H	I
E	D	I	E	■	W	I	N	E	R	I	E	S
W	E	E	K	■	L	O	U	■	E	D	A	M
S	A	S	S	■	S	U	B	■	U	O	I	S

Yesterday's answer 12-21



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955!** 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Kiefer Sutherland, 51; Ray Romano, 62; Samuel L. Jackson, 69; Jane Fonda, 80.

Happy Birthday: Channel your emotions carefully. Don't let disappointment and anger take over. Slow down, consider your options and make strategic plans that include steps leading you to greater success and happiness. Distance yourself from what you don't like and you will find greater freedom to do your own thing. Your numbers are 4, 10, 13, 25, 31, 38, 46.

ARIES *(March 21-April 19):* You can gain ground if you discuss your intentions, feelings and plans for the future. A reunion or getting back to basics will help you head into the next year with greater foresight and discipline. Don't get angry, get moving. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS *(April 20-May 20):* Keep business and pleasure separate. Sharing your personal life with your colleagues or peers will give them access to your vulnerabilities. Listen and gather information instead of offering it. Do what you can now to avoid having regrets later. ✪✪

GEMINI *(May 21-June 20):* Don't get angry when you should get moving. Take control and do whatever it takes to redirect attention in order to avoid a bad situation. Protect your passwords and other important personal information. ✪✪✪✪

CANCER *(June 21-July 22):* When it comes to money, personal matters and contractual dealings, it is best to remain quiet and be willing to listen. Gather the information you require to make a good decision and negotiate on your own behalf. Tidy up loose ends quickly. ✪✪✪

LEO *(July 23-Aug. 22):* Fess up to anything that you may regret. Honesty will keep you from making matters a whole lot worse. A heartfelt talk with someone you love will clear the air, allowing you to make amends and enjoy the festive season. ✪✪✪

VIRGO *(Aug. 23-Sept. 22):* Take care of unfinished business. Living up to your promises and taking care of your responsibilities will lift a lot of pressure off your shoulders, allowing you to enjoy the festivities going on around you. A personal change will do you good. ✪✪✪

LIBRA *(Sept. 23-Oct. 22):* You can make a decision regarding your future prospects. Knowing what you want and then taking direct action will help you bring this year to a close with an open mind and a sense of relief. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO *(Oct. 23-Nov. 21):* Emotional disagreements will surface if you or someone close to you has been too indulgent. A little discipline or a heartfelt discussion will help you come up with options that can help you avoid future travails. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS *(Nov. 22-Dec. 21):* Take a closer look at what you have done for others and what you have received in return. Reevaluate your current position and consider how you can go about reaching your goals. Make positive choices and changes. ✪✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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CAPRICORN *(Dec. 22-Jan. 19):* Work alone. Completing what needs to be done before the year comes to a close will ease your mind. Don't trust someone else to take care of anything that's important to you. An assumption made by an old friend could cause damage. ✪✪✪

AQUARIUS *(Jan. 20-Feb. 18):* Emotions will be difficult to contain. Situations will escalate and tempers will mount. Take a moment to calm down and remember what's really important. Offer peace, love and understanding and you'll avoid a feud. ✪✪✪

PISCES *(Feb. 19-March 20):* Be honest about the way you feel. If you try to dodge someone who needs to talk to you, you'll raise suspicion. Don't make assumptions, just listen to what's being said and go to the source for verification. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are impatient, forceful and fair. You are unconventional and notable.

To submit astrological questions to the "Dear Eugenia" column, visit Eugenialast.com, or join Eugenia on Twitter/Facebook/LinkedIn.

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

9	8							
2			6		1			
			3	5				
	7	6					4	
		3				1		
	2					8	9	
				4	8			
			1		7			9
							5	3

Difficulty Level ★★★ 12/21

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's Answer

2	4	7	9	1	3	6	5	8
6	3	1	5	8	7	2	9	4
9	5	8	2	6	4	1	3	7
1	6	3	7	9	8	4	2	5
4	8	9	6	5	2	3	7	1
7	2	5	3	4	1	9	8	6
8	7	6	1	3	9	5	4	2
5	9	4	8	2	6	7	1	3
3	1	2	4	7	5	8	6	9

Difficulty level ★★★ 12/20

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally and even backward. Find them, circle each letter of the word and strike it off the list. The leftover letters spell the **WONDERWORD.**

DRIVER'S LICENSE INFORMATION Solution: 7 letters

E	U	L	B	S	U	B	L	O	O	H	C	S	C	A
R	M	G	E	N	D	E	R	E	N	E	W	A	L	T
I	T	A	I	N	W	O	R	B	F	A	R	M	A	R
P	S	Q	N	M	O	N	T	H	D	O	E	X	S	O
X	U	H	E	P	I	I	D	R	N	L	I	W	S	P
E	J	T	E	H	W	D	S	O	C	S	A	A	I	S
L	D	R	R	O	T	O	D	I	E	L	G	L	G	N
C	A	I	G	T	Y	E	H	L	V	E	D	L	N	A
Y	Y	B	C	O	D	E	S	S	E	S	R	E	A	R
C	R	F	Ⓓ	Ⓜ	Ⓥ	F	A	T	A	D	I	T	T	T
R	T	O	M	R	K	C	U	R	T	V	V	S	U	E
O	N	E	O	K	N	A	T	H	G	I	E	W	R	E
T	U	T	P	E	R	M	I	T	R	A	I	L	E	R
O	O	A	E	Y	E	C	O	L	O	R	B	O	A	T
M	C	D	D	R	A	C	A	L	P	E	T	A	T	S

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Adjust, Age, Blue, Boat, Brown, Class, Codes, Country, Data, Date of Birth, DMV, Donor, Drive, Expire, Eye Color, Farm, Fee, Gender, Green, Laws, Middle, Month, Moped, Motorcycle, Motor Vehicle, Name, Permit, Photo, Placard, Renewal, Save, School Bus, Show, Signature, State, Street, Tank, Taxis, Test, Trailer, Transport, Truck, Unique, Vision, Wallet, Weight, Year

Yesterday's Answer: Leisure

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ITB18-CHCC/HA-001

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: JANUARY 3, 2018 TIME: 1:00PM

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/S/ ANTHONY T. BENAVENTE
SECRETARY, DLRN

/S/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
DIRECTOR, P&S

Benjamin K. Petersburg, Esq.
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Beach Road, Garapan
P.O. Box 5682 CHRB
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone (670) 233-3663
Facsimile (670) 233-5262

Attorney for Administrator

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF: MARIA MANGABAO, Deceased.
) CIVIL ACTION NO. 03-0021D
NOTICE OF HEARING
Date:
Time:
Judge: Hon. Joseph N. Camacho

PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that a Petition of Administrator Ramon A. Tebuteb, seeking court approval for final distribution of estate assets, has been set for hearing before the Commonwealth Superior Court, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, on December 22, 2017 at 9:00 a.m. in courtroom 205A.

Dated this 20th day of December, 2017

/s/
Benjamin K. Petersburg
Attorney for Administrator

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Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Tuesday, January 2, 2018.

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Interested individuals who meet the above requirements should submit their resume no later than Tuesday, January 8, 2018.

Resumes may be submitted to the attention of IP&E Human Resources Department.

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Dodgers hit with $36.2M tax, Yanks with $15.7M

AP
Los Angeles Dodgers manager Dave Roberts talks with members of the media at the MLB baseball winter meetings Tuesday, Dec. 12, 2017, in Orlando, Fla.

NEW YORK (AP)—The Los Angeles Dodgers will pay baseball's highest luxury tax for the fourth straight year and the New York Yankees owe a penalty for a 15th consecutive season, streaks that could end as the sport's biggest spenders slash payroll for 2018.

The Dodgers owe $36.2 million, according to final figures compiled by the commissioner's office and obtained by The Associated Press. That raises their five-year tax total to nearly $150 million.

New York was second at $15.7 million, its lowest amount since 2011 but a figure that increased its total since the tax began to $341 million. San Francisco was next at $4.1 million, followed by Detroit at almost $3.7 million and Washington—which is paying tax for the first time—at just under $1.45 million.

The Dodgers and Yankees vow to get below next year's tax threshold of $197 million. That would reset their base tax rate from 50 percent to 20 percent going into the 2018-19 offseason, when Bryce Harper, Manny Machado and possibly Clayton Kershaw head a potentially illustrious free-agent class.

"We know going in that the structure we have in place allows for flexibility for teams to make decisions in the near term and for the longer term," players' association head Tony Clark said Tuesday. "It is something obviously we watch, something that we're very cognizant of."

Los Angeles' 2018 payroll for tax purposes currently projects to about $181 million and New York's to $177 million.

"My goal is still to be under the threshold," Yankees owner Hal Steinbrenner said last week after the team acquired high-priced slugger Giancarlo Stanton from Miami in a trade. "Even with him added. We're comfortably under the threshold with some more money to spend, whenever we deem we want to spend it."

Additional surtaxes began this season: 12 percent on amounts $20 million to $40 million above the threshold and 45 percent on amounts over $40 million for repeat offenders. But there were special transition rules between the old and new labor contracts.

Starting next year, teams more than $40 million above the threshold would have their top amateur draft pick dropped back 10 slots -- with the top six overall selections protected and the extra penalty applied to the second-highest pick of those teams.

Los Angeles lowered its regular payroll to $243.7 million from a record $291.1 million in 2015 and $254.9 million last year. For purposes of the tax, which uses average annual values and includes benefits, the Dodgers' payroll was nearly $253.6 million, an increase of $2 million.

The Yankees' regular payroll was second at $208.4 million, down from $224.5 million last year and their lowest since 2006. Detroit was third at $190.8 million after falling $8.5 million and Boston fourth at $189.2 million after falling $11.3 million. San Francisco was fifth at $186.6 million, followed by the Chicago Cubs at $186.2 million.

World Series champion Houston was 18th at $134.1 million, an increase of $30 million.

Other teams with big boosts included Washington (up $23 million to $179 million), Texas (up $20 million to $174.7 million), Colorado (up nearly $33 million to $142.7 million) and Cleveland (up nearly $36 million to $136.1 million).

The Chicago White Sox dropped by almost $37 million to $87.8 million and San Diego by nearly $26 million to $71.3 million.

Milwaukee, at $68.2 million, was last for the second straight season. Just above were the Padres and Oakland at $76.3 million.

"We're watching. We'll continue to watch," Clark said. "We have some concerns in some areas, which I won't go into."

Spending on 40-man major league payrolls totaled $4.24 billion, an increase of $164 million, down from a $186 million increase last year. Regular payrolls include 2017 salaries, earned bonuses and prorated shares of signing bonuses.

Luxury tax checks to the commissioner's office are due by Jan. 21. The first $13 million of tax money is used to fund player benefits and starting this year 50 percent of the remainder will be used to fund player Individual Retirement Accounts. The other 50 percent of the remainder will be given to teams not over the tax threshold.

Caligiuri says USSF should delay GM decision

NEW YORK (AP)—One of the candidates for U.S. Soccer Federation president says the governing body should not create a general manager position ahead of the election in February.

Former U.S. star Paul Caligiuri, whose 1989 goal at Trinidad and Tobago put the Americans in the World Cup for the first time since 1950, wrote a letter to the USSF that he released Tuesday. He says "this fundamental restructuring of the U.S. Soccer organizational chart as well as the possible hiring of an individual for this new position without the input of the incoming president is a course of action I urge the board of directors to postpone until after the election."

He adds "should the board of directors be unconvinced that delaying the decision of the creation of a GM position a short period of time until after the election is the correct course of action, I would implore the board not to fill the vacancy until the incoming president is seated."

Sunil Gulati, the USSF president since 2006, decided after the Americans failed to qualify for the World Cup that he will not seek a fourth four-year term.

Caligiuri is among nine candidates, joined by former men's national team players Eric Wynalda and Kyle Martino; U.S. women's goalkeeper Hope Solo; Soccer United Marketing president Kathy Carter; USSF vice president Carlos Cordeiro; Boston lawyer Steve Gans; New York lawyer Michael Winograd; and Paul LaPointe, Northeast Conference manager of the United Premier Soccer League.

The USSF says eight candidates submitted the necessary three nominations but it won't announce the names until background checks have been completed.

Jeter hears complaints of Marlins fans at town hall

MIAMI (AP)—Derek Jeter sat Tuesday night in the left field plaza at Marlins Park, facing the music with the downtown skyline behind him.

The former New York Yankees shortstop fielded questions from season-ticket holders, many upset about the direction of the team under a new ownership group led by Jeter.

He told them the Marlins traded major league home run champion Giancarlo Stanton, stolen base champ Dee Gordon and All-Star left fielder Marcell Ozuna for prospects because an affordable payroll and stronger farm system is the only path to sustained success.

Jeter calmly answered questions until there were no more, and after the 90-minute session, he said he appreciated the fans' feedback —positive and negative.

"They're passionate," Jeter said. "That's the thing that is most important, and that's the thing that stood out. I would much rather have a situation where we're answering questions from fans who are passionate, as opposed to everyone sitting there saying all positives. It shows me they care about the performance on the field and this team, and obviously they've been through a lot."

Some 200 ticket-holders attended the town hall, the first in a series, and the seats arranged in the outfield plaza were nearly full—a refreshing change for the attendance-challenged franchise. Jeter opened his charm offensive by addressing the recent payroll purge.

"You've seen the Marlins make moves like this time and time again," he said. "This is not the same old same old. We have a plan. This is not a project to break the team down and build it up just to break it down again. We have a path to be sustainable over time."

The Marlins haven't had a winning season since 2009 and went 77-85 this year, but several fans argued the team was only a couple of starting pitchers shy of contending, and Jeter's group should have added talent instead of dismantling.

More spending wasn't a long-term solution, Jeter responded. He said the franchise lost too many games and too much money under previous owner Jeffrey Loria, who left the farm system decimated.

"You can't throw money at a problem and dig a bigger and bigger hole and not have any depth in the organization," Jeter said. "You have to build from the bottom up.

"I hear your pain. I know you've been through a lot. But we're trying to build something that is sustainable, and this is the only way to do it."

Jeter's plan had better work, one fan said.

"We have been the laughingstock of baseball for years," she said. "If you have a shot at not killing baseball for good in Miami, this is it."

Another fan fought back tears while discussing the departures of Stanton and Ichiro Suzuki.

"I appreciate your passion," Jeter responded. "You are the true definition of a true die-hard baseball fan."

Several fans said they may not renew their season-ticket package, with one noting the town hall was being held on the plaza where many of Stanton's tape-measure homers landed.

"I don't expect to see any more of that," he said.

Many fans offered suggestions, from free tickets to Jeter replacing Stanton in right field.

"I've played my last game," Jeter said.

Antetokounmpo helps Bucks hold off Cavaliers

MILWAUKEE (AP)—Giannis Antetokounmpo scored 27 points, Eric Bledsoe had 26 and the Milwaukee Bucks held off the Cleveland Cavaliers 119-116 on Tuesday night.

Milwaukee ended a five-game losing streak to Cleveland. Khris Middleton had 18 points and 10 assists, and Malcolm Brogdon scored 16 points.

LeBron James scored 39 points for Cleveland, which lost for just the second time in its last 20 games. James had seven assists but grabbed just one rebound in the waning seconds. Kevin Love finished with 21 points.

After a slow start, the Bucks got to the Cavaliers for 39 second-quarter points. Milwaukee cracked the 100-point barrier early in the fourth, but then stalled.

Milwaukee led 103-83 when Cleveland launched a furious comeback. Back-to-back 3-pointers by Dwyane Wade put the Cavaliers up 107-105, capping a 24-3 run and giving the visitors their first lead since the second quarter.

A 3-pointer by Brogdon put the Bucks back in front with 3:38 remaining. A traditional three-point play by James put the Cavaliers ahead 113-112 with about two minutes left.

Tony Snell responded with a 3-pointer for Milwaukee with 58.9 seconds remaining. After a Cleveland miss, Antetokounmpo grabbed a loose ball, hit a short shot and was fouled. His free throw gave the Bucks a 117-113 lead with 5.9 seconds to go.

Wade finished with 14 points for Cleveland, and Jeff Green had 13.

Milwaukee took its first lead early in the second quarter at 41-40 with Love and James on the bench. The Bucks remained hot even after the duo returned and at one point extended their advantage to 14. They led 69-58 at the half, sparked by 17 points from Middleton, who had a four-point play, as well as a 14-2 advantage in fast-break points.

Wizards 116, Pelicans 106

In Washington, Bradley Beal and the Wizards put away the New Orleans Pelicans with one impressive stretch.

Beal scored 14 of his 26 points in the third quarter, helping the Wizards top the Pelicans on Tuesday night.

Mike Scott had a season-high 24 points in 23 minutes and John Wall added 18 points and 10 assists as Washington won for the third time in four games. Marcin Gortat had 10 points, 14 rebounds and three blocked shots.

New Orleans got another big game from Anthony Davis and DeMarcus Cousins, but the Pelicans dropped their second straight. Davis scored 37 points, and Cousins finished with 26 points and 13 rebounds.

"They're great players," Washington coach Scott Brooks said. "They're two All-Stars, two future Hall of Famers, but I thought our guys set the tone in the first quarter. It started with defensive stops."

The Wizards led 36-19 after one and ran their lead out to 25 before the Pelicans closed to 61-55 at halftime. After New Orleans tied it at 61 early in the third quarter, Washington pulled away with a 24-5 run.

AP

Milwaukee Bucks' Giannis Antetokounmpo dunks during the second half of an NBA basketball game against the Cleveland Cavaliers Tuesday, Dec. 19, 2017, in Milwaukee. The Bucks won, 119-116

"You may be able to do that one time in an NBA game where you're down 20, 25 points to be able to work your way back all the way to a tie," Pelicans coach Alvin Gentry said. "But you give them separation again and the chances are not very good that you're going to do that."

Beal added two 3-pointers to make it 91-68 just before the end of the third.

"The other team just came out and they wanted it more," Cousins said. "I feel like we just kind of went through the motions tonight as a team. They just wanted it more, period. No effort, no effort."

Kings 101, 76ers 95

In Philadelphia, Zach Randolph and Vince Carter have been playing for so long that some of their teammates were toddlers when they broke into the NBA.

That double dose of experience worked out quite well for Sacramento on Tuesday night.

Randolph scored 27 points and Carter had two key plays late in the game, helping the Kings to a victory over the slumping Philadelphia 76ers.

Buddy Hield had 24 points and Frank Mason III finished with 16 for Sacramento, which came back from a 16-point second-half deficit.

"Zach started us out and really carried us for a while," Kings coach Dave Joerger said. "He was really, really terrific."

The 36-year-old Randolph was rejuvenated after he rested during Sunday's 108-93 loss at Toronto. He made 12 of 19 shots and grabbed five rebounds.

"He's an amazing low-post threat, for a long period of time," Philadelphia coach Brett Brown said.

Besides putting up solid numbers—Randolph entered leading the team in scoring and rebounding at 15.2 points and 7 boards per game—he is enjoying his role as veteran leader.

"We get along well," he said. "These kids are working, they're playing hard, and it's showing on the court. We believe in them."

Ben Simmons had 13 points, 12 rebounds and nine assists for Philadelphia, which lost for the seventh time in eight games while playing without center Joel Embiid for the second straight night due to a back injury. Robert Covington led the 76ers with 17 points.

Philadelphia looked out of sync without Embiid and Sacramento took advantage.

Hield gave the Kings a 79-78 lead with a 3-pointer with 9:48 remaining. Carter made a full-court outlet pass to Garrett Temple for a layup that made it 92-86 Sacramento with 4:18 left.

The 40-year-old Carter made another crucial play down the stretch, hustling for an offensive rebound that led to Randolph's jumper with 1:59 to play.

"Coach trusts me to be solid and consistent, not make mistakes and help our guys when I can," Carter said. "I've been in big situations so I enjoy being on the court."

Simmons answered with a driving basket that made it 96-92, but he couldn't convert the free throw after being fouled and the rally fizzled from there.

"I don't think we've been focusing down the stretch—missing shots, not calling the right plays," Simmons said. "It's just little things like that. It comes down to us focusing, and making sure we're committed to defense and offense at the same time."

Curry to miss at least 1 more week with sprained ankle

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Golden State Warriors guard Stephen Curry will miss at least one more week with a sprained right ankle.

Curry was evaluated by the team's training staff Tuesday. The team says the ankle is healing well and Curry has been cleared to do modified on-court workouts. Curry will be evaluated again in one week when the team expects to have more clarity on when he can return to play.

Golden State has won all five games since Curry injured the ankle on Dec. 4 at New Orleans.

Curry will miss three games remaining this week, as well as the Christmas Day showdown against Cleveland before getting evaluated again.

In related news, center Brook Lopez sprained his right ankle during the Los Angeles Lakers' 116-114 loss to the Golden State Warriors.

The team said an MRI confirmed Tuesday that Lopez has a moderate sprain and he will be reevaluated in three weeks. Lopez was injured in the second quarter of Monday night's game.

Lopez, who has started all 28 games this season, is averaging 12.8 points, 4.3 rebounds and 1.7 assists per game.

In Milwaukee, Bucks forward Jabari Parker is taking nothing for granted as he works his way back from a second major knee injury in his brief NBA career.

The 22-year-old Parker practiced Tuesday with Milwaukee's G League affiliate for the second straight day. He tore the anterior cruciate ligament in left knee Feb. 8 and had surgery six days later.

"Basketball is my sanctuary," Parker said following a scrimmage at the Bucks' practice facility. "I love that I'm getting the chance to play on the court again. That's one blessing that I won't take for granted."

Parker was selected by Milwaukee with the second overall pick in the 2014 NBA draft after he played one season at Duke. The 6-foot-8 forward then tore the ACL in his left knee during a 96-94 win at Phoenix in December of that year.

"I'm accepting of what I've been through," Parker said.

He spoke with tempered optimism following Tuesday's practice.

"I'm holding up really good," Parker said.

Practicing with the Wisconsin Herd has allowed Parker to take part in full-court sessions, while the Bucks tend to conduct half-court practices at this point in the season given the team's busy schedule.

"It gives him the opportunity to get up and down the court," Bucks coach Jason Kidd said. "It also gives him the opportunity to go against different guys. Yesterday and today were positive."

Parker averaged 20.1 points in 51 games last season before he got hurt. He said he has no plans to change his style of play.

"If you change your game, you change your mentality," he said. "If you live in fear, you live with stress and doubt."

Meanwhile, in Dallas, the Mavericks have signed guard Kyle Collinsworth to a two-way contract and requested waivers on guard-forward Antonius Cleveland and center Jeff Withey.

8 Steelers, 6 Eagles and Saints in Pro Bowl squads

NEW YORK (AP)—The Pittsburgh Steelers lead the NFL in one category this season: most Pro Bowl players.

Antonio Brown, Le'Veon Bell and Ben Roethlisberger are among eight Steelers selected for the all-star game. They will be joined on Jan. 28 in Orlando, Florida, by tackle Alejandro Villanueva, guard David DeCastro, center Maurkice Pouncey, kicker Chris Boswell, and linebacker Ryan Shazier, who is injured. Brown, also injured but expected back for the playoffs, was voted a starter, as were Bell and the three offensive linemen.

The Philadelphia Eagles and New Orleans Saints each placed six players in the game in balloting announced Tuesday.

Four rookies were chosen in voting by NFL players, coaches and fans: running backs Alvin Kamara of the Saints and Kareem Hunt of the Chiefs, cornerback Marshon Lattimore of the Saints, and safety Budda Baker of the Cardinals as a special teamer.

Two long snappers will be selected by each coach; the losing AFC and NFC team with the best record will have its coaching staff work the Pro Bowl.

Twenty-four of the 86 Pro Bowl selections are newcomers. That includes two of the three Rams specialists chosen: kicker Greg Zuerlein and return specialist Pharoh Cooper. Rams punter Johnny Hekker is a repeat Pro Bowler.

AP

Pittsburgh Steelers running back Le'Veon Bell (26) dives for the end zone for a touchdown with New England Patriots cornerback Eric Rowe (25) defending during the second half of an NFL football game in Pittsburgh, Sunday, Dec. 17, 2017.

"The presence of five of our players on the Pro Bowl roster is a testament to the collective effort of our football team," Rams coach Sean McVay said in a release. "While we emphasize football as a team sport, we appreciate their individual contributions to our overall success. We're extremely proud of them."

Five teams have no representatives: the Jets, Browns, Colts, Bears and Packers.

Other AFC offensive starters: Patriots QB Tom Brady and FB James Develin; Texans WR DeAndre Hopkins; Chiefs TE Travis Kelce; Titans T Taylor Lewan; and Raiders G Kelechi Osemele. On defense, it will be Jaguars DE Calais Campbell and CBs Jalen Ramsey and A.J. Bouye; Ravens S Eric Weddle and LB C.J. Mosley; Broncos LB Von Miller; Texans LB Jadeveon Clowney; Chargers DE Joey Bosa; Titans DT Jurell Casey; Bengals DT Geno Atkins; and Miami S Reshad Jones.

Starting on offense for the NFC: Eagles QB Carson Wentz, who is injured, TE Zach Ertz and G Brandon Brooks; Falcons WR Julio Jones and C Alex Mack; Vikings WR Adam Thielen; Rams RB Todd Gurley; Cowboys T Tyron Smith and G Zack Martin; Redskins T Trent Williams; and 49ers FB Kyle Juszczyk.

Defensive starters for the NFC: Vikings DE Everson Griffen and CB Xavier Rhodes; Cardinals LB Chandler Jones and CB Patrick Peterson; Cowboys DE Demarcus Lawrence; Eagles DT Fletcher Cox; Rams DT Aaron Donald; Redskins LB Ryan Kerrigan; Panthers LB Luke Kuechly; Seahawks S Earl Thomas; and Giants S Landon Collins.

Other AFC specialists are Titans punter Brett Kern, Chiefs returner Tyreek Hill, and Patriots special teamer Matthew Slater.

Packers playing without chance for playoff spot

GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—This will be a strange couple weeks in Titletown.

The Green Bay Packers' streak of eight straight postseason appearances is over. Quarterback Aaron Rodgers is done for the year after he was placed on injured reserve Tuesday.

Rodgers threw for three touchdowns and tossed three interceptions in Sunday's 31-24 loss at Carolina in his return from a broken collarbone. Coach Mike McCarthy said there were no setbacks with Rodgers' injury, but it made sense to shut him down.

"He took a number of hits. With all the factors involved, we felt this was clearly in Aaron Rodgers' best interest," McCarthy said. "He's not happy about it. It's a hard day for him."

It's an unusual time for the team as a whole.

The Packers last missed the playoffs in 2008, which was Rodgers' first season as the starter. They're not used to playing games this late into December without postseason implications.

Atlanta's win over Tampa Bay on Monday night sealed Green Bay's fate in the NFC wild-card chase. Packers receiver Randall Cobb dozed off in front of the TV while watching the game and woke up on Tuesday morning to difficult news.

"It's very disappointing. You never want to be in this situation," Cobb said, "but we are."

The Packers managed to go 3-4 in games started by backup quarterback Brett Hundley to keep their playoff hopes alive while Rodgers was out. With Rodgers done, Hundley will take over again as the starter Saturday against Minnesota, and the Packers re-signed Joe Callahan to be his backup.

The last three games of the year figured to be tough with or without Rodgers. He was knocked out in Week 6 after landing on his right arm after a hard hit outside the pocket by Vikings linebacker Anthony Barr.

"I mean you can't go out there trying to take someone out like that. Just play ball, we don't really think about it too much," left guard Lane Taylor said when asked if the team was motivated by another opportunity to face Barr.

So the Packers are in the unusual position of possibly playing the spoiler role. Their final foe, the Detroit Lions in Week 17, also remains in the chase for a wild-card spot.

An early end to a season for a team perennially considered a Super Bowl contender could spark more change in the offseason, especially on defense. The Packers haven't had consistent pass-rushing punch on the edge, a group led by outside linebacker Clay Matthews and Nick Perry.

Injuries have also have decimated the Packers at cornerback, which was already a question mark. They were without starters Kevin King and Davon House last week against Carolina due to shoulder injuries.

"You know we had ups and downs. We didn't play as good as we should have, and what we're capable of," Perry said. "We didn't get the job done this year. I'm pretty sad about it. The only thing we can do now is just look forward and just move in the right direction."

SSC

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Taiyo recorded his PBT in the 50m butterfly after capping the sprint in 34.39 seconds (from 34.84 seconds). Taiyo's older sibling, Kento, also had a PBT from a one-lap race—the 50m butterfly—after timing in at 25.61 seconds (from 25.64).

Lennosuke marked a PBT in the 400m individual medley after clocking in at 5:19.75, more than eight seconds faster than his seed time of 5:27.79. His younger brother Jinnosuke, on the other hand, got two PBTs, with the first one in the 50m breaststroke (38.07 seconds from 40.17) and the last in the 100m freestyle (1:02.19 from 1:02.79).

The 10-year-old Aoi matched Jinnosuke's pair of PBTs, as the former timed in at 47.14 seconds (from 47.30) in the 50m butterfly and 38.97 seconds (from 39.41) in the 50m freestyle. Seven-year-old Kaya also did the 50m freestyle and she broke the one-minute barrier after posting 55.73 seconds, which eclipsed her old PBT of 1:17.16.

Jinie Thompson was the third SSC member to earn two PBTs after competing, too in the 50m freestyle and logging 35.36 seconds (from 36.66). Completing the roster of SSC swimmers with two PBTs in the Tsunami Saipan Open was Michael Miller, who timed in at 1:47.81 (1:51.61) in the 100m freestyle and 45.71 seconds (from 46.11) in the 50m freestyle.

Christian Newman also competed in the 50m freestyle and got one of his three PBTs in that sprint. He posted 47.28 seconds in the 50m freestyle, way better than his old PBT of 56.56 seconds. His two other PBTs came from the 100m freestyle (2:04.12/from 2:16.20) and 50m backstroke (56.27 seconds/from 1:06.97).

CNMI

From Page 32

place and just needed improvements, while the host nation will be working on toilet and shower blocks that need federal funding.

NMSA, during its presentation to the PGC's general assembly in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea in 2014, with the approval of the late governor Eloy S. Inos, has estimated the cost of the Mini Games at $1,160,000. Of the over $1-million budget for the event, $650,000 will come from participation fees from the 22 nations, $250,000 from the government, and the remaining $260,000 from the private sector through sponsorships.

The association has also offered 12 sports for the Mini Games. The list includes athletics, badminton, golf, tennis, va'a (canoe), volleyball (indoor and beach), baseball, sailing, swimming, triathlon, weightlifting, and wrestling.

Meanwhile, White lauded the small Team CNMI that competed in Vanuatu.

"Our weightlifters can compete with anyone. The CNMI can be proud that Angel San Nicolas won a bronze medal, our first medal since the baseball gold in 2011. He just missed two more bronze medals by 1 kg. Ray Santos was close also. Our basketball players were very competitive, and with a little extra work can be in the medal hunt at the next Games. Our track and field athletes are improving all the time, and if they keep it up, I have high hopes for the future for them as well," White said.

GTC

From Page 32

team then hit the board in the closing minutes of the second half, sending the semis game in a shootout.

In the decider, WSR drew a goal from Izeah Jolo, but it was not enough to bring the Kingfishers to the finals, as GTC countered with Cruzat and Sablan's shots.

GTC will go for the division crown against defending champion Mt. Carmel School today at 4:30pm, while WSR and Garapan will play in the battle for third place at 3:30pm

Mt. Carmel had an easier semis win against Garapan with Markus Toves and Andrew Sablan on target. Toves kicked things off for the Knights with his goal in the 27th minute, while Sablan finished what his teammate started, drilling back-to-back shots with the first coming in the 32nd minute and the second three minutes later.

The Knights are slightly favored in today's finale as they have yet to lose a single game in the shortened tournament. Mt. Carmel had three wins and one loss in the single-elimination regular season to get the top seeding in the playoffs.

"I hope the players will continue what they were doing in our first five games—which is to work together. Some of our key players belong to a club so they definitely know how each other plays. We also have several new players and for some reasons, they blend well with our old players, so the team really works as one cohesive unit," coach May Ling Colombo said.

"GTC is a tough team so I encourage the boys to play their best in the finals," she added.

Meanwhile, the girls division finals will also be played today with Koblerville Elementary School facing WSR at 4:30pm. In the consolation game, it will be GTC versus Mt. Carmel at 3:30pm.

Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Basketball League Finals

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Mt. Carmel School 1 (blue uniforms) and 2 players pose for a photo after their title match in the girls high school division of the 2017-2018 Commonwealth Coalition of Private Schools Basketball League last Friday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium. MCS 1 won, 27-13.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coach John Santos huddles with his Mt. Carmel School 2 players before their championship game against Mt. Carmel School 1.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Coach Catherine Attao-Toves and her Mt. Carmel School 1 huddle during a timeout in their title game versus Mt. Carmel School 2.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School 1 and 2 players battle for the loose ball.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School 1's Yuri Fukushi, left, drives against Mt. Carmel School 2's Riley Buenaventura.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School 2's Princess Alcantara pulls up for a one-hander against Mt. Carmel School 1's Jehn Villagomez.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School 1's Tawnie Manibusan is left open for a point-blank shot.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Mt. Carmel School 2's Gia Hemley unloads a jumper.

Dodgers hit with $36.2M tax, Yanks with $15.7M

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Sports

Antetokounmpo helps Bucks hold off Cavaliers

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GTC vs Mt. Carmel in ISL finale

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Mt. Carmel School's Andrew Sablan and a Garapan Elementary School player sprint as they go for the ball during their semis game in the boys division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League last Tuesday at the Hopwood Middle School Field.

Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School and Mt. Carmel School took different routes to the finals of the boys division of the 2017 NMIFA Fall U11 Interscholastic Soccer League.

The Knights eased their way to today's title match after shutting down Garapan School, 3-0, in last Tuesday's semifinal game at the Hopwood Middle School Field. GTC, on the other hand, needed a shootout to slip past William S. Reyes Elementary School, 2-1, in the other Final Four match at the Hopwood pitch.

Carlson Cruzat and Miguel Sablan delivered the needed goals for the Binadu in the shootout. Sablan also scored GTC's goal in regulation after finding the back of the net in the 22nd minute.

GTC kept the shaky lead the majority of the 20-minute second half until Romeo Hechanova saved the day for WSR with a goal three minutes before the match wrapped up. Neither

See GTC on Page 30

SSC swimmers earn 16 PBTs

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Saipan Swim Club's Jinie Thompson, seen here competing in a meet last month at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool, got two personal best times during the Tsunami Saipan Open held last Dec. 9.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Saipan Swim Club participated in the Tsunami Saipan Open and recorded 16 personal best times in the Dec. 9 tournament held at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Jinie Thompson was the first SSC member to earn a PBT after completing the 200m freestyle event in 2:55.08. The 11-year-old Thompson's old PBT read at 2:56.49.

Sophia Gauran also raced in the four-lap event and had a faster time of 2:33.58, which is more than 15 seconds better than her previous PBT (2:48.85).

Other PBT getters for SSC were brothers Lennosuke and Jinnosuke Suzuki, Taiyo and Kento Akimaru and sisters Kaya and Aoi Braxton.

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CNMI receives Pacific Games Council flag

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The countdown for the 2021 Pacific Mini Games started last Friday when the CNMI received the Pacific Games Council flag from Vanuatu.

Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White received the Pacific Games Council flag last weekend during the closing ceremony for the 2017 Pacific Mini Games in Port Vila.

"It was an honor to represent the CNMI at the turnover ceremony. NMSA will keep the flag until 2021, when it will proudly wave over the next Pacific Mini Games right here in the CNMI," White said in a message sent to *Saipan Tribune*.

The NMSA head was also interviewed by Radio New Zealand and said that the Commonwealth will host a "lean and simple" Pacific Mini Games in four years time. White, in the same interview, added that all sporting facilities are already in

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ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Northern Marianas Sports Association president Michael White, fourth left, and Samoa's Nynette Sass, third left, receive the Pacific Games Council flags during a turnover ceremony last Friday in Port Vila, Vanuatu. The CNMI and Samoa will host the 2021 Pacific Mini Games and the 2019 Pacific Games, respectively.